

FRIENDS

of the Joshua Hyde Public Library

Volume: 2025

Issue: 4

Fall Edition



FRIENDS OF THE JOSHUA HYDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Friends Online

Find out what the Friends are doing or renew your membership online:



From Our President

With another fiscal year coming to an end, it's a time for us to look back and gauge how we did, and it's looking pretty good! Our membership drive is winding down and so far, we have 171 "Friends." But we could always do with more, so please tell your friends how great it is to be a *Friend*!

We just finished up our best-attended Summer Reading Program ever with 870 participants, including 420 adults. Our regular programming is going strong including our various book groups, movie programs and children's programs. We also had one of our best-attended Stewing Over Mysteries events ever this year featuring fan favorite Hank Phillipi Ryan.

We held a Holiday Food Drive, many author hours and tech help events, our ever-popular library mini-golf, and started the Pages & Packs Pantry in conjunction with Tantasqua High School. We hosted family game nights, held cooking demonstrations, and taught people how to start a bee hive. We also added some new museums to our Museum Pass collection, so make sure to stop in, grab a pass and have a fun excursion with friends and family on us! And there was so much more that happened at the library this year, I don't have the space to mention it all. If you enjoyed any of these programs, remember, none would have happened if it weren't for the Friends. The money raised through our membership drive, book sales and donations is what funds all the great programs that happen at the library.

We also gained a new children's librarian, Meredith Fournier, but said farewell to a library staple, Cheryl Zelazo, with her retirement after a few decades of being a fixture at Joshua Hyde. Hopefully you were able to say goodbye to her at her retirement celebration.

So now it's time to start working on all the great things we have in store for you next year at our Annual Meeting, which is coming up in October. We're currently planning another fun and informative event, so keep an eye on the website for the meeting details. Hope to see you all there!

See you at the library!

Donna Englander

From Our Librarian

Dear Friends,

What a busy, busy summer! The JHPL Summer Reading Program had over 870 people of all ages register and participate.

In July, we said good bye to our Adult Services Librarian, Cheryl Zelazo. The Friends of the JHPL threw a retirement party for Cheryl on July 29, and we were happy so many people could stop by. Cheryl worked at the JHPL for 25 years and we wish her well in her retirement! Gina Piantoni has been promoted to Adult Services Librarian, Jess Hiestand has been promoted to ILL & Technology Librarian, and we welcome new staff member Savannah Devine as our Library Services Specialist.

Just a couple of updates for the fall:

- JHPL will open on Sundays starting January 4. We are pushing the start of our Sunday hours so that we can be open later into the spring, rather than over the busy holiday season.
- The library will be open from 1-5pm ONLY on Thursday, October 16 so that staff can participate in a training workshop.

Upcoming events not to be missed!

- Tuesday, September 14 – 2pm - @ the Sturbridge Senior Center - *The Healing Power of Green : exploring forest bathing*
- Saturday, September 27 – 11am - *Creating Art with Sea Glass*
- Wednesday, October 1 – 6:30pm - *The Unsung Heroine Behind the New Deal: Miss Francis Perkins*
- Tuesday, October 21 – 6:30pm - *Author Talk & Book Signing with Kwasi Acheampong*
- Saturday, November 15 – 1pm - *Leather Tooling for Teens*

As always, you can keep track of what is going on at the library and to register for events on our website sturbridgelibrary.org and on the JHPL Facebook page, Instagram accounts or by calling 508-347-2512.

Your Librarian,
Becky Plimpton

PAGES & PACKS PANTRY UPDATE



The Pages & Packs Pantry is a partnership between *Tantqua Regional School District* and the *JHPL*. We offer free books, along with non-perishable foods and personal care products, and are focused on snacks and foods that kids in particular would enjoy. The pantry is available to anyone during open library hours. If you would like to make a donation to the pantry of food or money, or to volunteer for future food drives, please call the library at 508-347-2512, or email pagesandpacks@gmail.com

Bag of Books Sale

Saturday October 18th 10am-2pm



The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library are thrilled to be having our Annual Bag of Books Sale. The Sale is just in time for the Sturbridge Harvest Festival!

Purchase a sturdy Friends of the Library Bag or bring your own bags. We will also provide free bags for those who need them. We accept cash, personal check, or Venmo.

When: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Joshua Hyde Public Library 306 Main St. Sturbridge

The Book Sale will be in the Meeting Room on the lower level. We are hopeful for a crisp, sunny fall day to be able to have a large selection outside on our back lawn across from the Sturbridge Common and the Harvest Festival activities.

This is our last sale of the year and "everything must go"! Fill your bags with wonderful hardcovers, paperbacks, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs!

WORLD BUILDING BOOK CLUB

by Becky Celuzza

Come join the **WORLD BUILDING BOOK CLUB** for vibrant discussions of wide-ranging science fiction, fantasy and speculative fiction selections by enthusiasts of these genres. We explore what it means to be human, often from unexpected and sometimes non-human perspectives. We step outside the known and into future worlds, distant worlds, magical worlds or otherwise fantastical worlds in order to look back and understand ourselves and our world differently. Or just have a rollicking good time. Or a perplexing experience. Expect an energetic, respectful discussion with lots of opinions of the book, of the author's style, and of our experiences of reading it. And we usually end up eagerly sharing other favorite books with one another. We welcome everyone from world-building enthusiasts to the world-building curious and skeptical. We meet year-round, typically on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30p with exceptions around holidays when it's likely to be the third Tuesday."

Mark your Calendar:

Friends' Annual Meeting to be held October 14



Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albion, inspired two more books delving into the philosophy of Morrie. We have the opportunity to speak with Mitch Albom's son, Rob Schwartz, and photographer/teacher Heather Pillar to learn more about Morrie's philosophies and what makes life worth living. We hope you plan to attend the Oct 14 Annual Meeting.

A RETURN TO THE PLEASURES OF BOOK DISCUSSIONS

by Ellen Duzak

As the first hints of autumn bring to mind that "back to school" feeling to all of us, I am reminded that it is time to reclaim a pleasure missing during the summer season... book discussions.

I confess the guilty pleasure of summer reading, light books set by the sea, steamy romance and cozy mystery and wild family conflicts. These books are delightfully read by the pool or under a shady tree in the heat and sun of summer. No need to discuss or dissect these books... they are just there to entertain.

Yet, as fall beckons and my mind is back in full thinking gear, I want to read with intensity and talk about those characters and that plot and what the author was thinking, and I want that discussion to be with other readers who share these questions and insights.

Welcome to a new year of book discussions to fill your reading soul at the Joshua Hyde Public Library. We have a group just to fit your schedule and preferences.

THE AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Library Meeting Room at 1 p.m. The books are all handpicked by group members and have a wide range of fiction and memoir topics. The group is friendly and lively and very welcoming. Best of all, there are Publick House Bake Shoppe treats to sweeten the conversation.

THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS GROUP meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Library Meeting Room at 6:30 p.m. This group has the longest history, having been in existence over 30 years. The books are all chosen by a group that comes together each summer to give the widest scope and range of book choices possible. Each month is a delightful chance to explore a book you might not have read otherwise. And the group enjoys every moment of discussion and the perfectly themed refreshments and ambience table that reflects the current book.

Our newest addition to the book discussion is the **WORLD BUILDING BOOK CLUB** which focuses on science fiction, fantasy and speculative fiction. It already has a strong and loyal following and meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

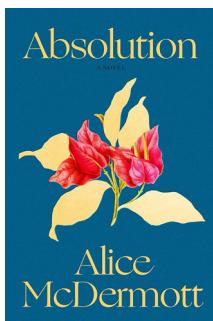
Everyone is welcome to join in one or all of our diverse book discussion groups. Hope to see you soon!

Armchair

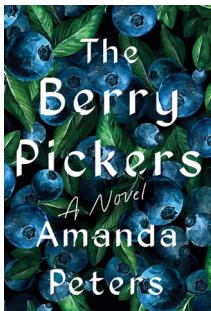
Meets every third Wednesday of the month



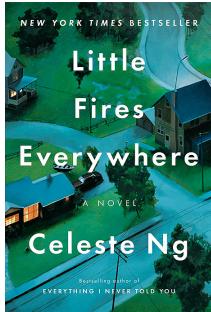
September 17
Before the Coffee Gets Cold
by Toshikazu Kawaguchi



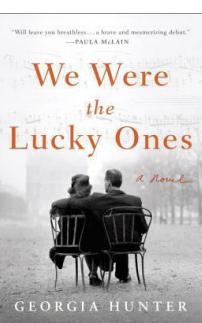
February 18
Absolution
by Alice McDermott



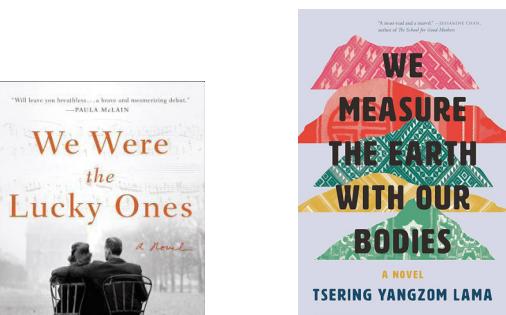
October 15
The Berry Pickers
by Amanda Peters



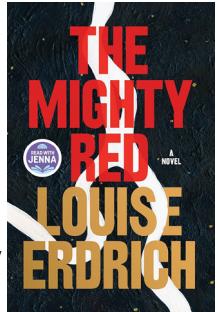
March 18
Little Fires Everywhere
by Celeste Ng



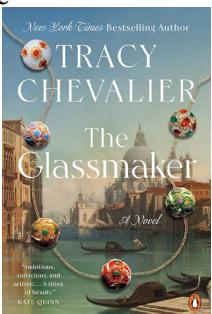
November 19
We Were the Lucky Ones
by Georgia Hunter



December 17
We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies
by Tsering Yangzom Lama



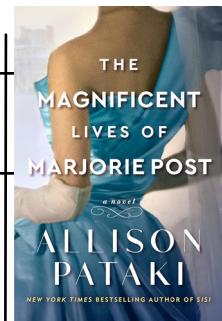
April 15
The Mighty Red
by Louise Erdrich



January 21
The Glassmaker
by Tracy Chevalier



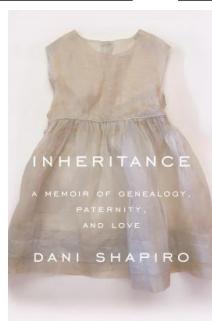
May 20
The Forest of Vanishing Stars
by Kristin Harmel



October 14
The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post
by Allison Pataki



November 18
The First Ladies
by Fiona Davis

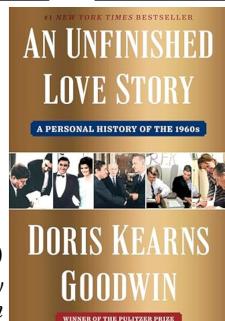


Meets every second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM
Joshua Hyde Public Library meeting room

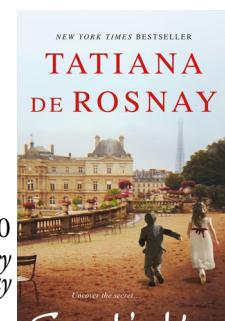
December 9
Inheritance
by Dani Shapiro



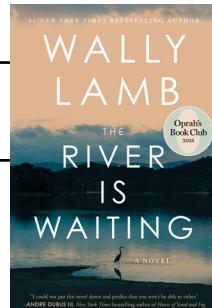
January 20
The Stolen Queen
by Fiona Davis



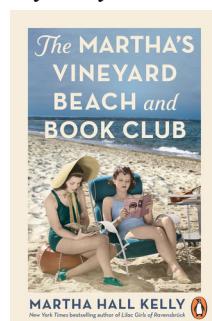
February 10
Unfinished Love Story
by Doris Kearns Goodwin



March 10
Sara's Key
by Tatiana de Rosnay



April 14
The River is Waiting
by Wally Lamb

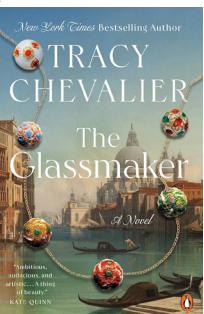


May 12
The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club
by Martha Hall Kelly

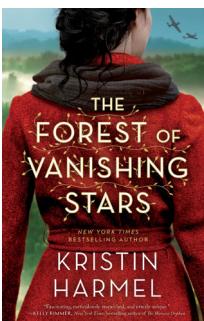


Travelers

6:30 PM Joshua Hyde Public Library Meeting Room



January 21
The Glassmaker
by Tracy Chevalier



May 20
The Forest of Vanishing Stars
by Kristin Harmel

Afternoon Book Discussion

Meets every second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM
Joshua Hyde Public Library meeting room

December 9
Inheritance
by Dani Shapiro

January 20
The Stolen Queen
by Fiona Davis

February 10
Unfinished Love Story
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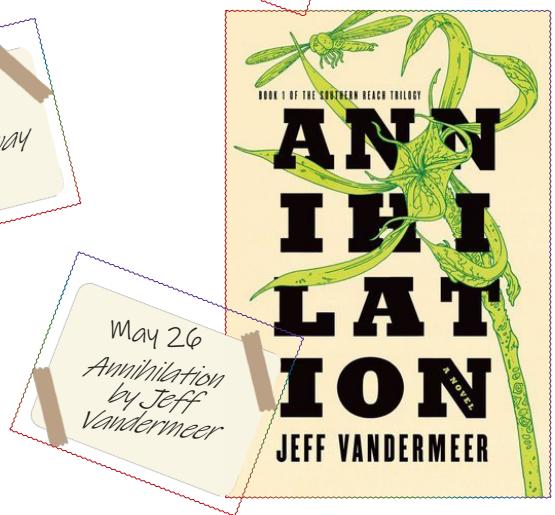
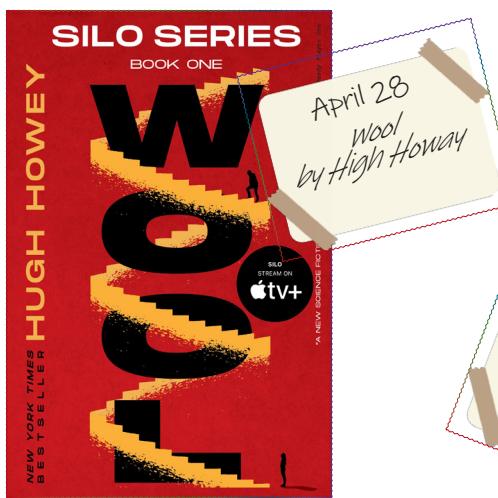
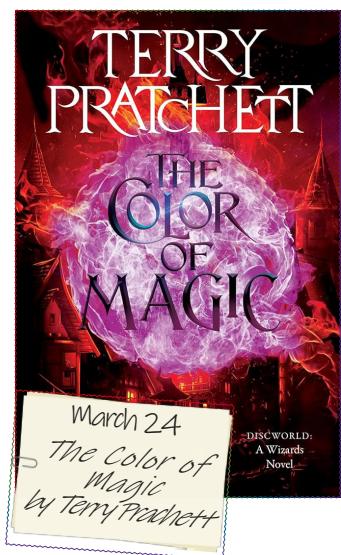
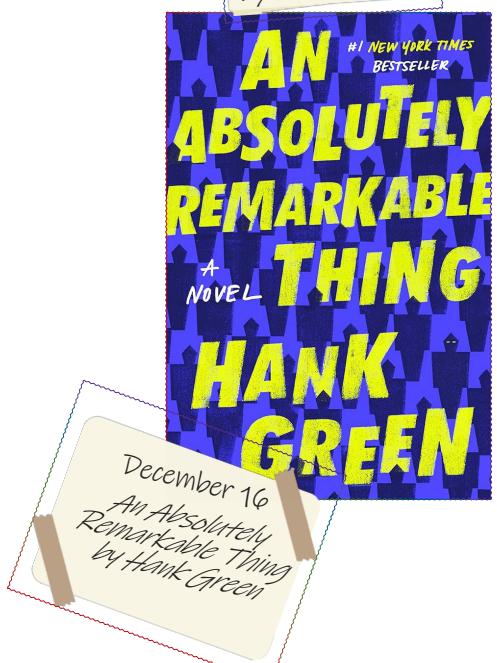
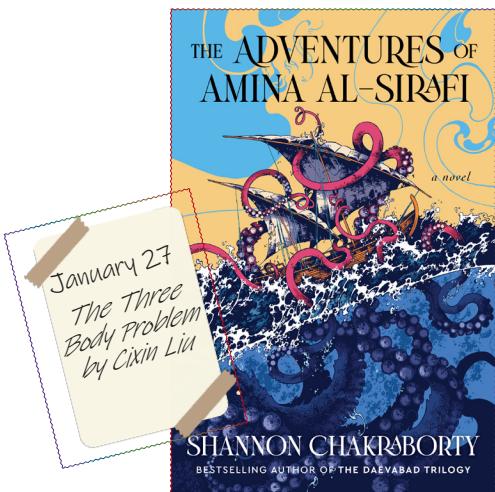
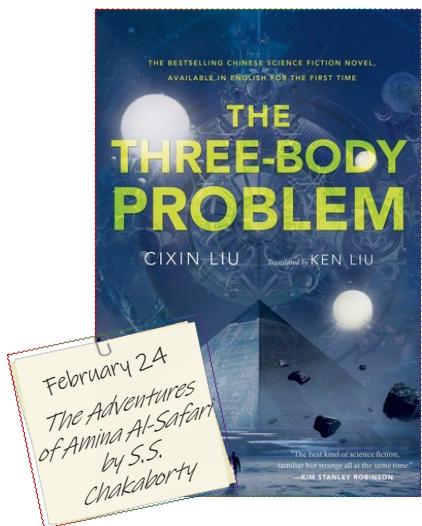
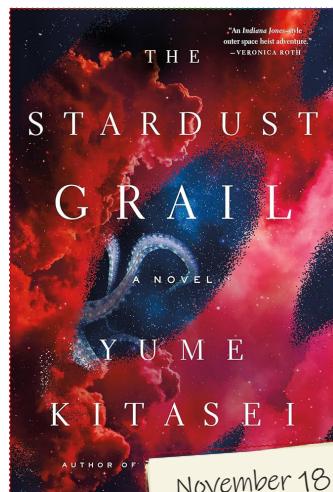
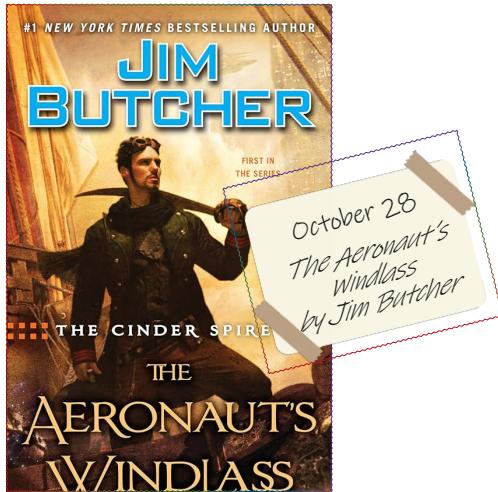
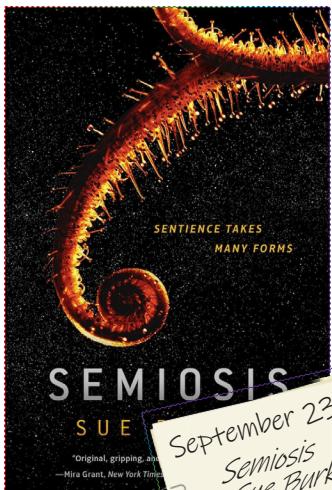
April 14
The River is Waiting
by Wally Lamb

May 12
The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club
by Martha Hall Kelly

WORLD BUILDING BOOKS

Book Discussion

Meets monthly at 6:30 PM
Joshua Hyde Public Library Meeting Room



Last Day of Summer Reading!

Wow! What an **AMAZING** summer!

I'd like to extend a huge thank-you to all of the kids and families who helped make my first summer reading program at the JHPL a success. I had lots of fun, and I hope you all did too!

We kicked things off with a Foam Party on the Town Common, complete with massive amounts of bubbles and dancing. Each week on Monday afternoon kids and their families made a whole variety of crafts based off of popular video game series - we especially had a blast making Perler Bead art! One Up Games brought us digital fun with a whole host of gaming systems for the kids to play on, and Joys of Nature

wowed us with lizards and cockroaches and snakes, oh my!

To wrap it all up we enjoyed free ice cream - courtesy of Cornerstone Bank and Suzy Qs Ice Cream Truck - and jammed out with Marcos from Rockabey Beats. And, as always, we read lots of wonderful stories throughout the entire summer!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this summer so great, especially the Friends of the Library and all their volunteers who work hard to raise the funds that allow us to do so much. We're very lucky to have such a wonderful community of library lovers and helpers by our side.

Have a wonderful start to the school year, and we'll see you again soon!

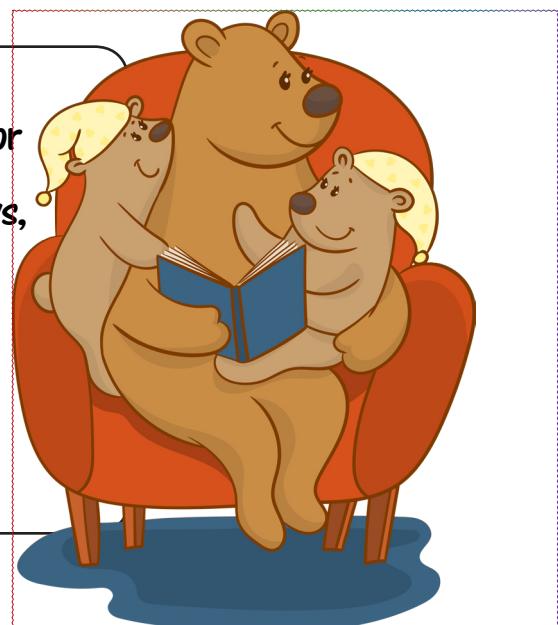
Love, Miss Meredith



FALL BABY TIME!

Join us at the Library Wednesday mornings in the fall for a story time designed specifically for children 2 years and under. We'll sing songs, learn rhymes and fingerplays, read baby friendly board books, and bond with other little ones and their guardians in a nurturing and safe environment. Begins September 3. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Sponsored by the Friends of the JHPL.





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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

WEEKLY TECH HELP!

Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Free hands-on tech assistance!

Bring your own device or use our available computers.

We can assist with: Printing, E-mailing, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, word processing, digitizing photos and scanning documents, setting up eBooks and audio books through Libby onto your tablet or smartphone, device setup and updates, basic smartphone and tablet use, accessing Library databases and resources, and more.

Need help with something else? Just ask! Please note: This is **BASIC** tech assistance. We cannot repair broken devices, recover lost passwords, or enter your private information (such as a bank number) online.

Please have your passwords on hand.



From the Children's Room

Hello everyone! Here we are at the end of another summer and the start of a new school year. Though we're always sad to leave summer behind, we've got a super fun autumn lined up for all our kiddos and their families! PreK story time and Baby Time will be starting back up the week of Labor Day and will run weekly throughout the year. A new Family Craft Time will occur bi-monthly, and a Tween Thursdays craft program will bring some once-a-month fun to our 9-12 year olds. There will be several stand-alone programs coming up, such as our Little Scientists event and a special cemetery scavenger hunt at the Old Burial Ground designed specifically for families. And of course, we're always adding new books to our juvenile collection to suit every reader's interest! Be sure to stop by soon and check out all we have to offer in the children's room at the JHPL.

Happy Fall!

Miss Meredith

