

F R I E N D S

of the Joshua Hyde Public Library

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Spring Edition



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From Our President

As I sit writing this, I've spent the past few days enjoying the sunshine, blooming bulbs and warmth on my winter weary flesh, but since we are still a year and counting into the pandemic, it just wouldn't seem right for Spring to continue on unabated. I was awakened this morning to the shrill sounds of a phone ringing at 5 a.m. announcing my kids would be enjoying (hopefully) their last snow day of what's already been a very crazy school year. But soon, the kids will be back in school full time and it's starting to look like the world will return to some form of "normal."

The *Friends* are also working on a return to normal. We are fully into our **2021 Membership Drive** and it looks like we are well on our way to a banner year! We have made 58 new "Friends" so far, in addition to many of our regular members. But remember, it's never too late to join if you haven't renewed yet.

We are also hoping to start enjoying some of our regular activities for this Summer. The registration for the **Summer Reading Program** will start on June 11 with the program officially kicking off on June 30. Don't forget to sign up! And if this pandemic continues on its current path, it looks like the library might be able to return to its normal hours with normal browsing by July.

We had a very successful **Book Sale** on the front lawn with plenty of Covid-safe protocols. Donations were accepted for the books and shoppers were very generous. We were able to raise more than \$900!

As the pandemic winds down, the *Friends* hope to up our offerings at the library and get back to our regular programming. Hopefully everyone will continue to wash their hands, wear their masks and get vaccinated when they qualify so we can end this long nightmare sooner rather than later. We all look forward to getting back to normal and hope our great programs will be enjoyed by all soon.

See you at the library!

Your President

Donna Englander

From Our Librarian

Dear Friends,

"**You Belong Here**" initiative starts in May

Recognizing that patrons of the library and the broader community of Sturbridge at large come from varying backgrounds and experiences, the library is taking active steps to create an environment in which the identities and cultural backgrounds of all are valued and respected. Starting in May the library will be hosting online and in-person programs on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all ages, throughout the year. Check the library website or the Facebook page for the newly adopted DEI Statement and for more details of upcoming events.

OPEN ON SUNDAYS

We are open every Sunday through June from 12-4pm for in-library browsing and computer use! A reminder that you must call for an appointment for the children's room or to use a public computer. Come in and see us! There is no curbside delivery on Sundays.

Current Hours:

Updated as of 4/10/2021

Day	Curbside Pickup	Computer Use	Main Floor	Children's Room
Sunday	Not Available	By appt only	12pm to 4pm	By appt only
Monday	10am to 5pm	By appt only	12pm to 4pm	By appt only
Tuesday	10am to 5pm	By appt only	12pm to 4pm	By appt only
Wednesday	10am to 8pm	By appt only	3pm to 7pm	By appt only
Thursday	10am to 5pm	By appt only	12pm to 4pm	By appt only
Friday	10am to 5pm	By appt only	12pm to 4pm	By appt only
Saturday	10am to 5pm	By appt only	12pm to 4pm	By appt only

Call us at 508-347-2512 to make an appointment for 1 hour of computer use or 30 minutes of Children's Room browsing.

Your Librarian,
Becky Plimpton



Friends Online

Find out what the Friends are doing or renew your membership

online:
slfriends.org
or
www.SturbridgeLibraryFriends.org

Need to ask the Friends a question?
e-mail:

info@sturbridgelibraryfriends.org

BOOK DISCUSSIONS RETURN TO THE JOSHUA HYDE

By Ellen Duzak

There is a delightful song in the air this spring as I read one glorious book after another. It is the promise of friendships renewed, deep thoughts expressed, and riveting conversations shared.

Why, you may ask? All because we plan to resume our afternoon and evening book discussion groups for the Joshua Hyde Public Library this autumn. The groups are sponsored by the *Friends* and we are fortunate to be hosted by the Senior Center in the months to come.

In these challenging times, of course, all plans are always subject to change.

It is the 125 th Anniversary of the Library and both book groups will celebrate with themes of remembrance and history.

- ▶ The afternoon book discussion group will read memoirs, giving personal voice to different times and experiences over this past century plus. To see the world through the life of another is always eye-opening and life-expanding. This will tie in perfectly with the oral histories that our library hopes to be recording for the anniversary.
- ▶ The evening Armchair Travelers Book Group will look at the history and social issues of the past 125 years in a varied selection of novels and ask over and over one very important question: What would the Haynes Sisters think? These women were the long-time librarians (Susan and Emily) and Trustees (Harriet) of the JHPL and a powerful influence on the community for over half a

century. How remarkable to add their imaginary presence and unique perspective to our timely discussions.

The evening novels will be a blend of classics and new writings. Our first book will be one that the very first readers at the JHPL knew as a very new and exciting read. H.G. Wells wrote *The Invisible Man* in 1897 (the year the library was dedicated) and it is amazing that it remains a science fiction classic that is reimagined by current generations.

Stay tuned for the entire list of books for both afternoon and evening series. The year ahead promises great reading and enlightening discussions.

Book Sale News!

Thanks to everyone who attended our April 10 book sale. The day was beautiful, many books found new homes and everyone was very generous.

Next Book Sale

Saturday, May 15 from 10:30 am – 2 pm

Remember – all proceeds go to funding the extras for the library from special programs to museum passes. Come support your library and find a murder mystery to enjoy or a garden book to help plan the redesign of your garden. History, biographies, sports, science fiction, cookbooks, crafts and classics – we have them all. And of course lots of children's books.

Book donations – We hope to open up donations as soon as the library is fully open again – possibly in July. We will send out an e-mail as soon as we have a date or watch our website.



FRIENDS OF THE JOSHUA HYDE LIBRARY SIDEWALK BOOK SALE

Saturday, May 15

Rain date Saturday, May 22

From 10:30 am - 2 pm

Books will be outside on tables along the front walk

A selection of books will be available including a variety of adult books, as well as young adult and children's books.



IN MEMORIAM

Elaine McClain

The library lost a bright star and a beloved friend with the passing of Elaine McClain on April 19.

For 20 years, Elaine served as a librarian for the Joshua Hyde Public Library. She is remembered for her dedication and her willingness to always help. She greeted all with her lovely smile and truly cared for the patrons.

She touched many lives and will be missed.



Happy retirement Jude McDonald!



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FRIENDS OF THE JOSHUA HYDE LIBRARY SIDEWALK BOOK SALE

Saturday, May 15

Rain date Saturday, May 22

From 10:30 am - 2 pm

✚ Covid-19 precautions will be in effect ✚

- Face masks and Social distancing required
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Cash box will be available for donations
– we will not be handling money and will not be able to give you change

From the Children's Room

Dear Friends,

After 362 days, the library is once again welcoming families into the Children's Room. The response has been wonderful! Children are selecting books by the armful and we couldn't be happier!

We are now offering outdoor story times twice a week, weather permitting. The spring series will run for 6 weeks and will include stories, songs, and a Take and Make craft. Registrations for this opportunity are going well.

Our Summer Reading Program, Tails and Tales, will be so much fun! We will be offering three program options for children: our scratch tickets, the Beanstack online program, and a Reading and Riding program sponsored by Whip O Will Stables of Dudley. Children may participate in one or more programs of their choice. We anticipate these summer programs will be very well received.

As always, your support for all the Children's Room activities and events is appreciated and valued.

Best,
Patricia A. Lalli
Children's Librarian

