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of the Joshua Hyde Public Library

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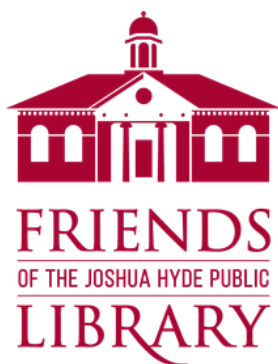
Publications

Jennifer Novelline



Wherever there is
a human being, there
is an opportunity
for kindness.

Seneca



A Successful Summer, an Exciting Fall, and a Patriots Preview

A Message from our President

For the *Friends*, fall is our time for renewal. Our fiscal year is coming to an end, our Summer Reading Program (SRP) has wrapped up, our latest book sale was one of our best ever and we're going full steam ahead planning our Annual Meeting. I'm happy to report that we had another very successful SRP with 735 participants signed up, and others joined, to add to that number. Our hard-working librarians are finally able to take a breath and start planning for the fall programming. So, check back often once school starts up again to see all the great activities, speakers, book discussions and so much more that will start up shortly! Our latest book sale brought in more than \$2,000 that will go a long way paying for all the great programs patrons will be enjoying in the upcoming year.

Let's face it, it wouldn't be fall in Sturbridge without the *Friends'* Annual Meeting. This year's pre-meeting presentation will be highlighting the New England Patriots. Author and veteran sports writer Marty Gitlin, who covered the NFL in the newspaper field and for CBS Sports, will discuss and show videos of the greatest and most interesting players, teams, events and moments of the team since its birth in the American Football League in 1960.

Watch the exploits of such early standouts as Gino Cappelletti and Babe Parilli, relive the disappointment of the Jim Plunkett era and talents of Steve Grogan and Sam "Bam" Cunningham. Experience again the transition from Drew Bledsoe to Tom Brady and beyond. Enjoy highlights from the Greatest of All Time under Bill Belichick, including Super Bowl triumphs. This presentation is fun and enlightening so don't miss it. Marty will host a Q&A following the program. But do make sure to study up since Marty will also be testing your knowledge with some trivia!

Be sure to stay after the presentation to vote on the Slate of Officers and library's Wish List.

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

What's New at JHPL

A Letter from the Director

Dear *Friends*,

Fall means a return to our book discussion groups! This year we have a new group to add to the three existing that the JHPL hosts. **The Longer Table Book Club** will have its first meeting on Tuesday, October 6, and will meet quarterly throughout the year. The inaugural title for this social justice-focused discussion group is *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. You are encouraged to bring suggestions of titles for discussion at future meetings of this group. As with all of our discussion groups, books can be found at the library or are available to download on Libby as eBooks or eAudio.

The Town continues to move forward with the deck/ADA accessibility project, as well as the modernization of the elevator. While the start of both of these projects has been pushed back, we are looking forward to being able to share more details with you soon.

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*

Eilee Reed brings Little Free Art Gallery to the Sturbridge Community

Sturbridge has a colorful new reason to stop by the Joshua Hyde Public Library. On Wednesday, June 24, 2026, the community welcomed its first Little Free Art Gallery, a cheerful new addition where creativity can be shared, discovered, and celebrated.

The gallery was researched, planned, and created by local Girl Scout Eilee Reed to earn the notable Girl Scout Gold Award. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and challenges Scouts to identify a community need, create a sustainable solution, and make a lasting community impact. Eilee's project does just that by bringing free, accessible art to residents of all ages. The Little Free Art Gallery is located in front of the Joshua Hyde Public Library at 306 Main Street in Sturbridge.

Similar to the beloved Little Free Libraries found in many neighborhoods, the Little Free Art Gallery invites visitors to take a piece of art that inspires them, leave behind their own creation, or donate arts and crafts supplies for others to enjoy. From drawings and paintings to handmade crafts, every contribution adds something special to the community treasure.

Supported by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library, the project offers a simple but powerful message: art belongs to everyone. **Congratulations to Eilee for creating a joyful new way for neighbors to connect, share, and celebrate creativity in Sturbridge.**



Above: Mentor Deb Drury, Girl Scout Eilee Reed, Helen Kantor, Ellen Duzak, and Leila Glaser of the Friends of the JHPL, and Becky Plimpton, Library Director.

Right: The newly installed Little Free Art Gallery.



Cast Your Vote

Friends' Annual Meeting

**Veteran's Memorial Hall
Upstairs in the Town Hall
Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm**

Following this year's presentation, we will be voting on the Library's Wish List and the Slate of Officers.

If you're interested in running for any of these positions, please let us know.

Current Slate of Officers is as follows:

President: Donna Englander
Vice President: Lisa Beaudin
Clerk: Alice Kao
Treasurer: Carrie Braney

Stay up to date

Remember to check your spam folder for announcements from

sturbridgelibraryfriends@gmail.com

August Book Sale a Bestseller!

Thanks to the generosity, enthusiasm, and hard work of our members and community, the Friends of the JHPL raised over \$2,000! This is a wonderful success that will help support programs not covered by the Town Budget, for children, teens, and adults at the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

From the first donated book to the final box packed away, this event was powered by teamwork. Every donation, every hour spent sorting, every welcoming smile, and every purchase helped turn the sale into something truly special for our library and our community.

Because of you, this Book Sale was more than a fundraiser—it was a celebration of reading, community, and the library we all value. Thank you for making it such a memorable success!

Mark your calendar! Our next Friends of the JHPL event is the **October "Bag of Books" Sale on Saturday, October 17**, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Library.



Left: Anna Burns, a former page at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, at her Eagle Scout Honors Ceremony on August 20, 2026.

The list of those that Anna thanked included the JHPL Library Staff, Trustees, and Friends. Becky Plimpton, Director, Donna Englander, Friends President, and Helen Kantor, Friends Book Sale Co-Chair were honored to be present for her ceremony. The telescope pictured is available through the Joshua Hyde Library of Things program.

Above: Rep. Todd Smola honoring Anna for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Fall Back Into a Good Book

New season. New books. New conversations.

Join us this fall for lively book discussions, fresh perspectives, and great company. Whether you're a longtime reader or simply looking for your next good book, there's a place for you!

longer table



First Meeting:

Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 PM in the library Meeting Room.



Meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the library Meeting Room.



Meets every second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM in the library Meeting Room.



Meets every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the library Meeting Room.

New! The Longer Table Book Club

Introducing JHPL's new social justice-focused book club that meets quarterly throughout the year for meaningful discussion. Please join us for our first meeting!

October reading: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

World Building Book Club

Come step outside the known and into future worlds, distant worlds, magical worlds or otherwise fantastical worlds for swashbuckling adventures, post-apocalyptic cultures, irreverent romps, sentient plants, aliens and dragons. Sometimes the world building and writing will work for you, sometimes it won't, but we'll always have a lively discussion of it. We welcome everyone from world-building enthusiasts to the world-building curious and skeptical. And we're always excited by recommendations!

October reading: *The Book Eaters* by Sunny Dean

Afternoon Reading Pleasure

One of the pleasures of autumn afternoons is the start of the Afternoon Book Group at the Joshua Hyde Public Library. The group is friendly and welcoming, the atmosphere light and positive, the refreshments a delight. Of course, the highlight is the books, a fine set of choices that lead to great discussion and are enjoyable to read.

Month after month, the group will embrace wonderful authors like Marie Benedict and Elizabeth Berg and favorite new titles like *Remarkably Bright Creatures* and *This Book Made Me Think of You*.

Books are all available at the library in a variety of formats. Remember, there is no finer pleasure than an afternoon of enjoyable books and rich conversation.

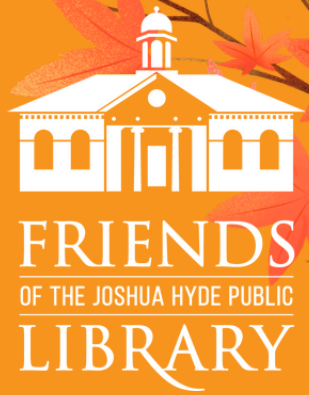
October reading: *More Than Enough* by Anna Quindlen

Armchair Travelers Book Group

For over 30 years, the Armchair Travelers Book Group at the Joshua Hyde Library has explored a wide variety of challenging and memorable books. The discussion is always lively and exciting and each book is led by a different leader each month. In addition, there is always a lovely table with references to the book in both a clever display and refreshments.

We hope you will join us each month to read a wide variety of excellent and unique books. Authors such as Wally Lamb and Paula McLain and Fredrik Backman will be featured over the course of the year. Books are available in a variety of formats from the Joshua Hyde Library book discussion shelves.

October reading: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhorn



Coming Up

Oct 8

Friends' Annual Meeting
Town Hall, 6:30pm

Oct 17

'Bag of Books' Sale
10am - 3pm

Oct 17-30

Early Voting
Town Hall

Oct 18-24

National
Friends of Libraries week

Nov 3

State Election
Host Hotel
6:30am - 8:00pm

Join us!



Become a member
or renew your
membership online
today!

SAVE THE DATE

Friends 'Bag of Books' Sale

Saturday, Oct 17 / 10am – 3pm

Come fill a bag, discover new favorites, and help keep the momentum going for our library!

Join us! October 8, 6:30pm • Friends' Annual Meeting (Town Hall)

From The Children's Room

Happy Fall, everyone! We had a fun and bustling summer down in the Children's Room this year as we played, laughed, and learned! Our dinosaur-centric theme, *Unearth A Story*, was a big hit for families and librarians alike. We got to try our hand at excavating fossils, making kid-friendly batik art, creating marionettes and puppets, and so much more. Gilbert the Party Pig paid us a visit before we wrapped it all up with a dance party and ice cream truck. As always, we want to say a huge thank you to the Friends of the JHPL for helping make all this magic happen. We couldn't do it without their support and the support of every library patron. *Thank You!*

Looking forward to the fall, we're excited for chilly weather and falling leaves! Our weekly story times start back up, as well as our bi-monthly craft program, *Make-It Mondays*. We'll have scavenger hunts in the Children's Room, a nature walk with Opacum Land Trust, and a few spooky programs in partnership with local bookstore *The Cursed Page*.

We hope you'll join us as the season turns to enjoy more books and community fun. See you soon!



Meredith & Savannah

Children's Librarian

Library Services Specialist

