



Annual Membership Meeting
The Friends of Hamilton – Wenham Public Library
Friday, May 3, 2023
6:30 pm

“The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to assist in promoting knowledge of and participation in library programs; to aid in providing funds to meet special library needs; to support and cooperate with the library in developing library services and facilities for the community; to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments, and bequests; and to provide a channel for individuals to express ideas and make suggestions for library use and service.” - Bylaws, FOHWPL

Agenda

6:30 Business Meeting called to order.

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| • President’s Message | Denise Bisailon, <i>Former</i> President |
| • Membership Report | Rosemary Hewett, Membership Secretary |
| • Annual Fiscal Report 2023-24 | Heidi Chisholm, Treasurer |
| • Book Sale Report | H. Chisholm, Treasurer |
| • Voting, Nominations | D. Bisailon, <i>Former</i> President |

7:00 Introducing Guest Speaker
Summer Stage

Kim Butler, Director, HWPL
Author Meg Mitchell Moore

President’s Message

Welcome! We are thrilled to have you here for the Friends Annual Meeting! The 2023-24 year has been very busy for the Friends of Hamilton-Wenham Public Library. Membership and fundraising activities are strong, as you will hear. We held many donation Mondays to gather the numerous books for the book sales and held three amazing book sales this past year.

We investigated new ways to fundraise, including the Friends Raffle that is displayed here tonight. Since it was our first, we decided to keep the Raffle at a small to moderate size. We asked several local businesses, restaurants and services in Hamilton and Wenham if they would be interested in participating – every one of them said yes! And a substantial donation from the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem was made. As you can see, our Hamilton-Wenham business community is quite generous and supportive of their library. We thank them profusely for making this such an exciting and successful event.

Needless to say, Friends Board members and volunteers worked extremely hard to meet our mission. I would like to recognize and thank the 2023-24 Friends Officers, Board members and Key Volunteers:

Director Kim Butler and Trustee Karen Bebergal, who are both serving ex-officio; Heidi Chisholm, Treasurer; Rosemary Hewett, Membership Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Clerk; Doris Gallant and Stephanie Kassabian, both of whom served as Recording Secretary; Stephanie also is the Corresponding Secretary. And thanks to Esme Flynn who recently served as Vice-President.

We greatly appreciate the generous support and dedicated work of the following Board members: Sheila Laing, Dede McManus, Beth Myers, Andrew Preston and Steph Moffat.

I want to acknowledge the complicated and incredible work done this past year by the Book Sale Coordinators, Heidi Chisholm and Jan Maddern. You are the magnificent engine of the Friends. Donation Coordinator, Patricia Carli, streamlined the donation process and made life easier. Also, I want to give a shout out to Sheila Laing who conceived of and organized this very first Friends Raffle, and to Beth Myers for working so successfully with the business community to obtain donations.

To reinforce what I said last year, we give a whole-hearted thank you to the numerous volunteers who love the library and give their time and energy to making it one of the best in the state and the country!

Thank you, Friends of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library. Please keep in touch and make sure your membership is up-to-date!

Respectfully submitted, Denise Bisailon, Ed.D., *Former* President, FOHWPL

Membership Report

As of April 24, our 2024 membership stands at 184, of whom 39 are new. This is fewer than last year, (78 people who were members in 2023 have yet to renew), so please do encourage your friends and neighbors to join/renew. I will be at the membership table tonight.

2024 members have so far donated a total of \$6,230, (less PayPal fees for those who joined on line). They include 61 Seniors, 27 Individuals, 44 Families, 26 Patrons and 26 Benefactors.

100 members are from Hamilton, 43 from Wenham, and 41 from other communities. Thank you to all of our past and current members for supporting the library!

Respectfully submitted by Rosemary Hewett, Membership Secretary, FOHWPL

2023-24 Annual Fiscal Report (March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024)

Please see attached sheet.

Book Sale Annual Report

First, thanks to all the great volunteers who are so generous with their time on Donation Days and during the Book Sales. And, to all the community members who donate books and patronize the book sales. Thank you!!!

Donation Days took place almost every Monday the library was open. This past year, Patricia Carli stepped away from coordinating the Book Sales, remained as a trusted volunteer, and moved into our Donation Coordinator role. We are thrilled to have Jan Maddern as co-coordinator for all Book Sales. Revenue from the ongoing sale from the bookcases in the library was **\$3,598.69**.

During the last fiscal year, we held three successful book sales in March, in June for children's books only, and in September. Revenue from these sales was **\$11,923.99**. In addition, revenue from our collaboration with an online book dealer was **\$1,785.46**. The grand total from all sources of sales was **\$17,308.14**.

Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully submitted by Jan Maddern and Heidi Chisholm, Coordinators of Book Sales.

Voting and Nominating Committee Report

As stated in the By-Laws: "After the first year, five members shall be elected to serve a one-year term, five to serve a two-year term and five to serve a three-year term. Subsequent terms shall be three years."

Nominees for Board of Directors

Term expiration date of April 2027

Stephanie Kassabian, 18 Walnut Road, S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Doris Gallant, 92 Village Post Road, Danvers, MA 01923s

Rosemary Hewett, 24 Birch Road, S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Board of Directors Who Continue to Serve

Term expiration date of April 2025

Heidi Chisholm, 164 Echo Cove Road, Hamilton, MA 01982

Beth Myers, 10 Walnut Road, S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Andrew Preston, 23 Homestead Circle, Hamilton, MA 01982

Sheila Laing, 1 Beech Street. S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Term expiration date of April 2026

Deirdre McManus, 20 Hickory Lane, S. Hamilton, MA 01982

Respectfully submitted by Denise Bisaillon, *Former* President, FOHWPL

Guest Speaker
Meg Mitchell Moore

Meg Mitchell Moore began writing as soon as she figured out how the cursive 'T' and 'F' were different and hasn't stopped since. Her debut novel, *The Arrivals*, was published in 2011 by Reagan Arthur Books, then an imprint of Little, Brown. Her newest novel, *Vacationland* (summer 2022), is her seventh. Before turning to fiction Meg worked as a freelance journalist for a variety of business and consumer magazines, where she often managed to pitch stories involving dogs. Before that she worked on the staff of a family of technology magazines. Meg received a B.A. from Providence College and a master's degree in English Literature from New York University. In 2012 Meg, her husband, their daughters and a beloved border collie (may she rest in peace) moved from Massachusetts to northern California. Despite California's many charms (including the settings that inspired much of *The Admissions*), they lasted exactly one year and returned to the beautiful coastal town of Newburyport, Massachusetts, where their busy household now includes a golden retriever who is a certified therapy dog and three daughters who somehow turned into teenagers when nobody was looking. Having set books in four out of six New England states (with southern New Hampshire appearing briefly in *Two Truths and a Lie* along with the novel's Massachusetts setting), she's wondering if it's time to get to know Connecticut.