



Agenda

Annual Membership Meeting

The Friends of Hamilton – Wenham Public Library

Friday, April 11, 2025 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

Libraries = Communication, Connection, and Access

6:30 Business Meeting called to order.

President’s Message	Sheila Laing, President
Membership Report	Rosemary Hewett, Membership Secretary
Annual Fiscal Report 2024-25	Heidi Chisholm, Treasurer
Book Sale Report	Heidi Chisholm, Treasurer
Voting, Nominations	Rosemary Hewett, Nominations Committee

7:00 Introducing Guest Speaker

Ted Reinstein

KrisTina Petty, Board Member

President’s Message

Welcome to the Friends Annual meeting, we are delighted you are here. Friends of Library groups have become essential to the success and growth of local library systems. We aim to, not only to raise money for the library, but to create awareness and appreciation for the library within the local community.

Board members and volunteers continue to work diligently to meet our mission. I would like to recognize and thank the 2024-25 Friends Officers, Board members and Key Volunteers: Director Kim Butler and Trustee Bethany Yul, who are both serving ex-officio; Heidi Chisholm, Treasurer; Rosemary Hewett, Membership Secretary, Beth Myers, Recording Secretary. We greatly appreciate the generous support and dedicated work of all our Board members. I would also like acknowledge the

incredible work done this past year by retiring board member Kristina Petty and our Trustee Bethany Yu, whose dedication, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas have played an integral part in this year's success. As always, we are especially grateful for the tireless Book Sale Coordinators, Heidi Chisholm and Jan Maddern and their team of volunteers who efficiently and successfully run our book sales, which traditionally has been our main source of income. The money raised by the Friends funds library programs and services, please see this year's highlights in the handout.

And finally, The Institute of Museum and Library Services which is the largest source of federal funding for libraries and provides grants to state programs and administrative services has been dismantled by executive order. Libraries across the country have already been officially notified of grant terminations. Other funding sources are from the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts, which have also been dismantled. This coming fiscal year we will be exploring ways to augment the book sales and hopefully create new ways to generate funds. Now, more than ever, we need volunteers to assist the Friends. If you have skills in technology, communications, fundraising or event planning please consider getting involved. The commitment can be as much or as little as you are willing to share. We will endeavor to make it an enjoyable and rewarding experience! Feel free to add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheet found at with Rosemary and make sure your membership is up-to-date!

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Laing, President, FOHWPL

Membership Report

As of April 4, our 2025 membership stands at 194, of whom 42 are new. This is a few more than last year, (61 people who were members in 2024 have yet to renew), so please do encourage your friends and neighbors to join/renew. I will be at the membership table tonight. Members include 57 Seniors, 32 Individuals, 51 Families, 33 Patrons and 21 Benefactors.

101 members are from Hamilton, 48 from Wenham, and 45 from other communities. Thank you to all our past and current members for supporting the library!

Respectfully submitted by Rosemary Hewett, Membership Secretary

Annual Fiscal Report (March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024) Please see attached sheet.

Book Sale Annual Report

Greetings to all Members of the Friends of Hamilton-Wenham Library and guests to our annual meeting. We had a successful 2024 with our USED BOOK SALES. The Semi-Annual Book Sales in March 2024 and September 2024 brought us \$11,644.00. Our book sales on-line were \$1,700.00 (as a donation from Fran Cooper). Our sale of used books also brings in Memberships. We helped kick off the summer reading program for the children and young adult readers with a small sale of only youth books in June,

which brought in \$620.00. We are pleased to report that the book sales INSIDE the Library in our little alcove has grown to give us \$ 4,855.00 this past year! Our combined income from used book sales this past year was \$18,819!

We could not have held these sales without the help of our many volunteers. We have a core group of trained and enthusiastic helpers who come most Mondays to accept donations, screen these books and sort them into categories. Set up, sale days and breakdown of the semi-annual Sales takes many long hours. Members of our board as well as other community members take part in this huge task. One estimate of the number of books we sort, move, display, sell and clean up in each sale is 10,000 pounds of literature. I will not attempt to list our wonderful volunteers in fear of leaving even one out, but they know who they are. We are very thankful for your time, energy, skill, and comradery.

We are always happy to include and train any new volunteers. It is very rewarding to help our library be able to offer programing, museum passes and more to the community.

Sincerely submitted, Jan Maddern, Co-chair of Book Sales, along with Heidi Chisholm

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 2028*

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

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

Andrew Preston, 23 Homestead Circle, S Hamilton, MA 01982

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

Board of Directors Who Continue to Serve *Term expiration date of April 2026*

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

Chantal Polsonetti, 11 Morgan Street, Wenham, MA 01982

Term expiration date of April 2027

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

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

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

Joanie Melanson, 41 Chestnut Street, S Hamilton, MA 01982

Respectfully submitted by Rosemary Hewett, Nominating Committee Chair

Guest Speaker

A book about understanding New Englanders through the lens of our stories. Journalist and author Ted Reinstein has reported all around New England for 25 years, telling the colorful stories of this historic yet ever-changing corner of America. Now, he condenses his countless travels into a single, unique labor of love: a journey through the heart and soul of New England, meeting the most memorable people—and their unlikely stories—all along the way. People whose struggles, toughness, triumphs, and humor not only define the very essence of New England, but represent the timeless best of America as well.

In all six states, in their own words, the stories unfold. From a stalwart surfer on New Hampshire's tiny seacoast, to Maine's "Slim" Andrews and his one-man museum, to the Vermonter who builds extraordinary havens in the trees for those without hope of reaching them. Meet a couple in the Berkshire Hills determined to save a place they were told doesn't exist, and a cartoonist in Rhode Island who found an ingenious way for an entire city to say goodnight to those who need to hear it most.

It's a legendary part of America that's often caricatured, but rarely caught with such real-life candor and intimacy. Indeed, the Old Mainer in the tired-old joke was wrong: you *can* get there from here. And along the way, see New England in a whole new light, through the stories of some everyday Americans you will never forget.

Y24 Highlights

- **Over \$14,000 spent on children's, teen, and adult programming – including the entire summer reading program**
- **The entire museum discount program which was utilized by over 1,000 patrons**
- **Co-Sponsored the "Let Freedom Read" event with the library in support of the Freedom to Read**
- **Funded the new library Comic Con event in which over 100 patrons attended this all-day event**

FY25 Highlights (So Far)

- **Funded much of the Community Reads events for all ages**
- **Purchased a new ADA compliant mobile desk for the library catalog computer on the first floor**
- **Provided funding for new display shelf on the first floor**
- **Supplied the Library with a new portable PA system**