



Dear Friends:

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well as spring arrives. This is our first newsletter in almost two years and will be short to help save costs. We have not been able to run our annual book sale since 2019 although we were able to sell a lot of books at the October Flea Market last year. I am very happy to say that it looks like **we will be able to run the Annual Book Sale this coming May 6-8!** The book sale is how we raise more than 50% of our funds.

The other large portion of our funding comes from our annual memberships. Enclosed is our annual membership renewal envelope – please consider joining to help us maintain the important programming the Friends support. **New this year: you can join by donating using PayPal:**
<https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/about/friends-library>

The money we raise goes directly back to the library to pay expenses beyond what our taxes cover. For example, even during these unusual times, more than 225 children participated in the Summer Reading Program logging in over 9,300 hours of reading! This program is sponsored by the Friends.

We were so happy to see HPL re-open last year even though staff were able to keep most services running throughout the pandemic. The popular curbside pick-up has been continued as “Grab & Go” distribution making it quicker and easier than ever to order and pick up materials.

Many Friends'-sponsored remote programs have continued through the past year as you'll see in the update from Children's Librarian, Abby Kingsbury. We hope to bring concerts back to Volunteers Hall in the Fall of 2022 if it is safe to do so at that time.

Thank you and I hope to see you in May,
Chris Frechette, FOHPL President

From the Children's Room – Abby Kingsbury Programs and storytimes have been in full swing over the last year! Our summer reading program was lots of fun, and featured some terrific outdoor programs on the library lawn, including: the Summer Kickoff Concert with Electric Orange; a Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk; the Nest StoryWalk with Massachusetts Audubon; multiple library-created StoryWalks; as well as the virtual program Wally's Making Books Come Alive, all of which were generously supported by the

Friends. Heading into the fall, we enjoyed two more awesome outdoor programs, Rainforest Reptiles and Mr. Vinny the Bubble Guy, and also the ever-popular virtual Family Trivia program with the Trivia Brothers and a totally cool virtual tour of the Patriots Hall of Fame.

Coming soon will be a fabulous new program: an outdoor show on the library lawn in May with Li Liu, Chinese Acrobat (registration details TBA). And we are working on another great summer reading program with more fun and fantastic outdoor programs!

Outdoor storytimes have been going strong since July of 2021 (even through the winter!), and coming in April we will also be hosting registration-required, very limited enrollment indoor storytimes. Other ongoing programs include the Book Gobblers group for 1st & 2nd graders, book groups for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, and the Write Stuff group for 4th- 6th graders. We also have a once-monthly Children's Literature Discussion Group for Grownups – new members are always welcome to join! (Send an email to childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org to join the Children's Literature Discussion Group, and to join the other book groups fill in the Book Group registration: <https://forms.gle/1SixM98hix3qV8ET9>).

Congratulations to **Vivian Liu** for winning the 2021 Dr. Jeffrey Harris Scholarship. The Friends sponsor this scholarship to honor Dr. Harris who spent a lifetime of commitment to our community. The award is given to a senior who exemplifies that spirit.

Museum Passes are Back!

Thanks to your donations and book sale proceeds:

Here are just some of the museums for which we have passes. Be sure to check with the museum ahead of time to confirm visit rules.

Call the library to see if the passes are available. DeCordova ~ Discovery Museum ~ Fruitlands ~ Garden in the Woods ~ Institute of Contemporary Art ~ Isabella Stewart Gardner ~ John F. Kennedy Museum ~ Mass Audubon

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