



Dear Friends:

We hope this finds you and your loved ones well as spring arrives. We are happy to announce that our **Annual Book Sale is coming May 8 - 10!** Please see below for details.

In addition to the proceeds from the book sale, the other large portion of our funding comes from our annual memberships. Please consider joining to help us maintain the important programming that we support. You can use the enclosed annual membership renewal envelope or you can use PayPal:



The money we raise goes directly back to the library to pay for enhanced programming beyond what our taxes cover. For examples, see the reports from the Children's Room, Teens and Adult Programs. We also provide museum passes, a scholarship award and concert programming.

Thank you and we hope to see you in May at the book sale.

Congratulations to [Maya Ivanov](#) for winning the 2025 Dr. Harris Scholarship. The award is given to a student who exemplifies Dr. Jeff Harris' spirit of community service.

Children's Room Updates from Abby Kingsbury

This has been a busy year for programs in the children's room. The Friends of HPL sponsor about 95% of all children's programming.

This year we debuted the Baby & Toddler Disco Party, with disco lights and music funded by the Friends! This once-monthly program has been so much fun for all, as tiny dancers and their caregivers dance the morning away in a disco-transformed Volunteers Hall.

Through the school year, we've had tons of other great events: Family Movie Nights, Paws and Read, the 16th annual LEGO Expo, Sensory Playtimes, GraviTrax Challenge, afterschool movies, storytimes for all ages, book groups, Write Stuff, craft programs, and class visits from the Kindergarten classes in the

fall as well as visits from all HES classes in June. There is always something going on in the children's department!

We had an amazing summer reading program last year, including the Ice Cream Social, DinoMan, Rolie Polie Guacamole Band, Animal World Experience, AbraKidabra, Lindsay & Her Puppet Pals, and Toe Jam Puppet Band.

Since September, we have hosted many awesome half day programs that were supported entirely by the Friends, including the Caterpillar Lab, Challenge Trivia Duels, Comic Mime Robert Rivest, Wildlife Encounters, Jenny the Juggler, Magic Show with Ed Pop, Joys of Nature, Origami with Michael LaFosse, and Flying High Dogs (May).

We're excited to give a sneak peek at events for the 2026 Summer Reading program, kicking off with the Ice Cream Social, with ice cream, toppings, outdoor games, and a live band! Lots of awesome performers are scheduled to visit the HPL this summer, including (but not limited to): Trevor the Games Man, Bingo with Ooch, and Arthropod Petting Zoo with Professor Bugman. All these great programs are sponsored by the Friends, as are the summer reading prizes! Stay tuned for details on the complete summer reading calendar, which will be unveiled when the children's librarian visits with HES classes in June!

We hope to see you soon at an event, and please visit the children's room to browse the great new books that we have available to check out, as well as the large selection of circulating board games and jigsaw puzzles!

Adult Programs Updates from Megan Balbesky

New this year in February we ran a series of Meditation & Mindfulness virtual workshops which allowed people who work from home to join and get a break in their day. Everyone who attended discussed how nice it was to have a reason to take a break and de-stress! Hopefully we'll run it again next winter. The Friends pay for the Zoom subscription.

We have also made the Brown Bag Book Club "hybrid" so home bound patrons can Zoom in for the meetings.

Museum passes paid for by the Friends continue to be very popular. In 2025 more than 500 library passes were used to

receive free or discounted admission to area museums. Among the most popular were the New England Aquarium, The Discovery Museum, Tower Hill, and The MFA. Davis Farmland and Garden in the Woods are both opening for the season in April. We plan to add new passes this year for the Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield Museums (including Dr. Seuss) and Old Sturbridge Village.

On June 11th there's going to be a lecture on The Role of the Free Press in the American Revolution. More info:

<https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/16326929>

The HPL Trustees will sponsor an outdoor concert series starting in late June. Stay tuned for performers and dates.

Teen Updates from Jill Hayes

There's a lot going on for teens & tweens at the Harvard Public Library! Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, we have been able to host more than 50 programs for students in grades 6-12 so far this year!

This includes monthly cookie or cupcake decorating workshops, Maker Day craft programs and afterschool movies. We even host a Teen Cake Decorating Contest twice a year!

Know a teen with lots of opinions? We want to hear them! Our Teen Advisory Board, a volunteer group, meets once a month to brainstorm teen program ideas and offer suggestions about library materials and resources for teens. Teen Advisory Board is a great place for teens to hang with friends, have a snack and gain volunteer experience.

In addition, students in grades 7-12 can drop in to our monthly Teen Reader's Club where they can enjoy a hot chocolate and a snack, and chat with each other about what they are reading before curling up with a blanket and book to read silently for 30 minutes. At the end of the meeting, we discuss what we read. Book suggestions are available for those who need something new to read. This group offers a chance to take some time out of their busy lives to relax, read, and socialize.

Interested in learning more about teen programs and events? Sign up for the monthly Tween and Teen Program Newsletter email. Please contact Teen Librarian Jill Hayes at jhayes@cwmares.org for more information.

Teen programs are sponsored by the Friends of HPL!

Contact Teen Librarian Jill Hayes at jhayes@cwmares.org for more information.

Museum Passes

With your support the Friends of HPL sponsor more than 20 museum passes. Here is just a sample.

~

American Heritage Museum ~ Boston Children's Museum
~ Boston Harbor Islands Ferry ~ Butterfly Place ~
Discovery Museum ~ Ecotarium ~ Gardner Museum ~
Historic New England ~ ICA ~ JFK Museum ~ MFA ~
MassParks ~ Museum of Science ~ NE Aquarium ~
Peabody Essex Museum ~ Tower Hill Garden ~ Worcester
Art Museum ~ USS Constitution Museum ~ Zoo New
England

2026 ANNUAL BOOK COLLECTION & SALE

BOOK COLLECTION

Saturday, April 25: 9AM - NOON

Sunday, April 26: 11AM - 1PM

Thursday, April 30: 4PM - 6PM

Saturday, May 2: 9AM - NOON

Sunday, May 3: 11AM - 1PM

~

BOOK SALE

MEMBERS ONLY:

Friday, May 8: 3-7PM

(Harvard & Devens Residents can join at the door.)

OPEN TO ALL:

Saturday, May 9: 9AM-4PM

Sunday, May 10: 10AM-2PM

To volunteer for any of these activities please email us at hplbooksale@gmail.com

"Outside of a dog, a book is your best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read!" - Groucho Marx