

Friends of the Haverhill Public Library

Winter 2024-2025

President's Message

Hello Friends,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the upcoming Holiday Season.

The Shop is full of lovely ornaments, home decor, fabulous jewelry and gifts for all ages.

The Shop buyers have done an amazing job purchasing all the merchandise and decorating the Shop. I hope you get a chance to stop in to see our Winter Wonderland.

The Board of Directors has welcomed new members, and they are ready to help. In fact, we now have eight members of the Board volunteering in the Shop. All of our buyers are also on the Board. The Library has a busy year ahead, the renovations may be starting soon, and your Board will be there to help, sitting on committees and fundraising.

The Friends are always looking for new members. If you have a neighbor, friend or relative who would like to join, they can do it at the Shop or through our website and checkout our Facebook page, it's great.

We are hoping to add to our volunteer staff in the Shop. Again, if you know anyone or if you would like to spend two hours a week in a great library, please let one of the volunteers know. The Shop also has substitute volunteers, like substitute teachers without the children.

On a sadder note, two of our volunteers have passed away in the past month, both Maria and Bruce were wonderful people who will be missed.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Haverhill Public Library, your membership helps the Library every day.

If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please let me know.

Again, thank you for all you do.

All my best,

Maureen Ferris, President

Friends of the Haverhill Public Library

Book Review

James by Percival Everett

James is an interesting re-telling of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. It is told by Jim, the runaway slave, who was with Huck on his many adventures traveling down the Mississippi River. I figured it would be a good idea to reread Huckleberry Finn as it has been decades since I last read that. What a crazy story it is! I'd forgotten so much of it and how racist it is 150 years later.

James, as I said, is a first-person account of Jim's side of the story. Right away we learn that all the slaves talk very well amongst themselves, use proper English and grammar, and as soon as a white person appears, they switch to slave vernacular (ex. "I's heah, Massa!"). We learn so much more about Jim in this book and how difficult it is to keep the parts of his life separate. We also learn how much his family means to him, so when he hears that he will be sold "down river," he runs away. His plan is to get to a free state, work and save money, and then come back to Hannibal, Missouri, to buy the freedom his wife and child. Of course, it doesn't go as smoothly as that, and he finds Huck (also a runaway) and they're off.

I enjoyed most of the book, but found it increasingly difficult to understand it when the slaves were having big discussions about the writings of Voltaire, Robespierre, John Locke, etc. that they have all read and understood. How? When? Also, the whole ending of Huckleberry Finn is missing (where Tom Sawyer finds them and gets them into another harebrained adventure before he finally tells them that Jim is a free man—his owner, Miss Watson, died and left that in her will). In its place is a completely different story. I won't write about it, as you might want to read it yourself!

Percival Everett has won many awards for his books, including finalist for a Pulitzer. I am interested in some of his other works and will have to read them. He ends his acknowledgements with "for my long-awaited lunch with Mark Twain." I'm sure that would be an interesting conversation!

Teri Lyons

Haverhill's Hidden Gems



Tattersall Farm

542 North Broadway, Haverhill, MA 01832

I suppose one can't exactly call Tattersall Farm "hidden" as it is frequently mentioned in local newspapers, but it is certainly is one of Haverhill's "gems!" It deserves all the publicity it gets and more!

Starting with the website, the history is very interesting and goes back to 1757 when the property was owned by the Haseltine family. It was sold to the Tattersall family in 1898 and remained in that family's name. Mary Alice Tattersall, the last member of the family to survive gave it to the city of Haverhill in a trust.

So much is offered there—something for everyone! Local schools have field trips planned, music is played and recorded, open houses are offered, etc. Volunteers offer talks on various plants with all different focuses: identifying while on a nature walk, how to prepare them for winter, and historical uses for them. "Birding" hikes are scheduled. Corn mazes are offered in the fall and amateur astronomers even set up to look at various wonders in the night sky. Last summer a farm-to-table event was very popular. They have hosted animal adoption events and beekeeping demonstrations. And anyone interested in sheep dog trials, this is the place!

Of course, it is expensive to keep the farm running. They have a charitable trust where donations can be sent. And they can always use volunteers. If you haven't done so yet, please consider visiting Tattersall Farm. The website is good and easy to use. This is a "gem" of which we should all be proud and involved!

Friend's Shop

Come to the Friend's Shop and see the many Christmas items we have for sale.



The gift shop at the local library plays a vital role in supporting the community's cultural hub. By offering a variety of unique Christmas gifts, the shop not only brings festive cheer to visitors but also reinvests its profits back into the library's programs and services. This creates a meaningful cycle where the community's support directly enhances the library's resources, ensuring it continues to thrive as an accessible space for learning, creativity, and connection. The shop is a wonderful example of how local initiatives can help sustain and enrich the heart of the community.

**Officers and Board of Directors
Friends of The Haverhill Public Library
2024-2025**

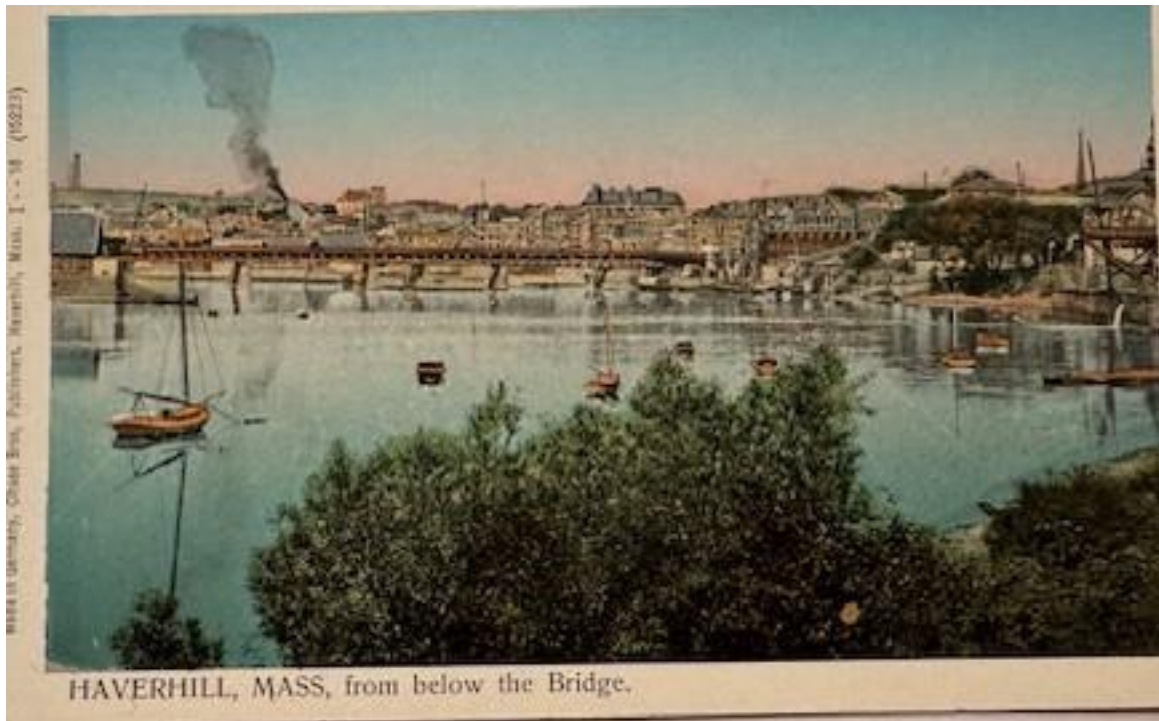
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Some interesting photographs of Haverhill



The Basiliere Bridge, later renamed the Haverhill Bridge, is a steel truss bridge spanning the Merrimack River in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The photograph showcases its robust steel structure, which has a classic industrial design with intricate crisscrossing beams that support the bridge. The bridge stands tall, connecting both sides of the river with a wide expanse, reflecting the area's industrial history. In the background, you can see the surrounding riverbanks and the cityscape of Haverhill, with both modern and older buildings lining the horizon. The scene may be set during either day or night, capturing the bridge's significant role in local infrastructure.

The Basiliere Bridge has been an essential part of Haverhill's transportation network, linking the city's two halves and facilitating the movement of people and goods. Built in the early 20th century, it replaced an older wooden structure, supporting the area's growth as an industrial hub. Over time, it has become an iconic landmark for both locals and visitors. The bridge not only symbolizes Haverhill's past but also serves as a vital part of the local economy and community connections.



City Hall Park and High School, Haverhill, Mass.

This park, located in the heart of Haverhill, Massachusetts, has long been a symbol of the city's rich history. Established in the early 20th century, it has served as a central gathering place for the community, hosting public events, celebrations, and peaceful moments of reflection. The surrounding City Hall, built in 1900, stands as a testament to Haverhill's prosperous past, particularly during the height of its shoe manufacturing era. The park's scenic beauty and its proximity to key city landmarks make it an enduring piece of Haverhill's heritage, preserving the spirit of a bygone era while continuing to serve as a hub for local gatherings.

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HAVERHILL PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Info at the Friends Shop and Front Desk

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