

Friends of the Haverhill Library Newsletter

Winter 2026

President's Message

Dear Friends of the Haverhill Public Library,

Hello to all of you! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. I know this is a busy time of year for everyone, but I hope you will take a few minutes to read our semi-annual newsletter. So much is going on!

A brief introduction: I am Teri Lyons and I'm the new president of the Friends. My family has lived in Haverhill for 36 years now, which, in some circles, still means I'm "not from around here!" I taught kindergarten in Haverhill for many years and now, in retirement, still volunteer at a local school. I've been a Friend for a number of years and am always interested in what's going on at the library!

The big news is the upcoming construction which is scheduled to begin this spring. There will be some inconveniences, but the end result should be great! The library's website should keep us informed about parking, rearrangements, etc. The Friends' Shop might even have to close for a bit!

Speaking of the Shop, I hope you will plan to stop in soon! The women in charge of buying and decorating have outdone themselves this year—it's just full of beautiful items to purchase! And, of course, the 2026 calendars are in. They are still only \$12, a real bargain. Are there any budding historians out there? Many thanks to Jack Lynch who has done a really great job researching and writing for the calendars for years, but is planning to retire now. Please let

We will be discussing fundraising ideas for next year soon and will keep you informed about anything that is coming up. Please remember that everything we do is for the benefit of Haverhill's library!

I hope you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Teri Lyons, President

Friends of the Haverhill Public Library

P.S I am sad to announce the passing of Maureen Ferris. She was a member of the Friends of the Haverhill Public Library and a Board member for many years including President for a few years. Maureen was a friend to all and will be greatly missed

Friends' Shop

About the Friends' Shop

- Established in **1989**, it was one of the first library shops of its kind in the U.S.
- Offers a variety of merchandise including:
 - Books by local authors
 - Seasonal decor and unique gifts
 - Jewelry and fashion accessories
 - Branded Haverhill items
 - Children's toys
 - Specialty items and local merchandise
- The shop's earnings help fund library improvements, technology, museum passes, furnishings, community events, and more.

Volunteer & Support

- The shop is **100% volunteer-run** and always looking for volunteers or donors to help support the library's mission.

If you want details on current stock, events, or special sales at the shop, it's best to call ahead or visit during library hours!



Friends Shop News

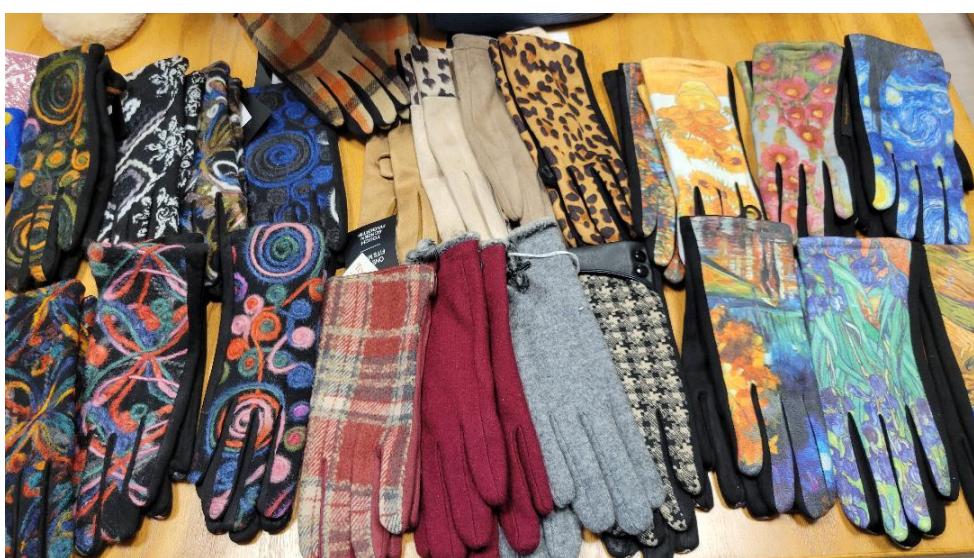
The Friends Shop was represented at the Sip and Shop event sponsored by the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. Cindy Cavallaro and Sue Veasey are shown staffing a booth. Many pairs of gloves, some colorful ponchos and lovely Holiday pins were sold.

Cindy Cavallaro and Sue Veasey

Come visit the Friends Shop







Haverhill History

While observing a lesson about the origins of Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, it brought to mind the Library's Hall of Fame. Did you know that R.H. Macy had his first store on Merrimack Street in Haverhill? He opened a dry goods store in 1851 that catered to the local mill workers. He even paid for a holiday parade (4th of July, not Thanksgiving). His store failed, so he went to New York City and opened another one in 1858 which was highly successful!

Come visit the Wall and learn about some of Haverhill's amazing history!



Haverhill High School History

Early Origins and Buildings

- **1874 — First dedicated high school:**
To meet growing educational needs, Haverhill built a three-story high school on Crescent Place, across from G.A.R. Park. This was the city's first purpose-built high school.
- **1910 — Main Street School:**
Overcrowding led to a grand new brick high school at **139 Main Street**, designed by C. Willis Damon, Haverhill's first college-trained architect. This facility opened in September 1910 and could accommodate about 800 students with modern educational spaces for the era.
- **Annex & Fire of 1959:**
After the Main Street building opened, the earlier Crescent Place structure became the "Annex" for freshmen. The Annex was destroyed in a major fire in June 1959, suspected as arson. The loss forced the city to use a **two-session system** (morning/afternoon shifts) until a new facility could be built.

Modern Era — Monument Street Campus

- **1963 — Current Haverhill High School Opens:**
The present Haverhill High School building on **Monument Street** opened in 1963. The first graduating class from this campus was the **class of 1964**.
This new location replaced the Main Street school as the central facility for secondary education in the city.

Cultural and Community Impact

- **Inspiration for Archie Comics:**
One of Haverhill High's most notable early students was **Bob Montana** (class of 1939), who later created *Archie Comics*. He based the fictional **Riverdale High** and many characters on the people and life he observed at Haverhill High in the 1930s.
- **Nickname & Identity — "Hillies":**
The school's athletic teams and broader identity are known as the **Hillies**, a name that reflects local heritage and community pride. This nickname also connects historically to regional sports traditions.

Stadium Legacy

- **1916 Stadium:**
The school's athletic stadium, built in 1916, was one of the first high-school-exclusive stadiums in the U.S. Historical events there include exhibition games featuring **Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig**, and, in 1960, the first intra-squad scrimmage of the Boston Patriots (now the New England Patriots). [Haverhill Hillies](#)

Historical Records

- **Yearbook Archive:**
Haverhill High School maintains a digital yearbook collection dating back to **1913**, offering a rich look at student life over more than a century. [hhs.haverhill-ps.org](#)

Famous Alumni

- 1. Bob Montana** – Comic strip artist best known for creating *Archie Comics*. His experiences at Haverhill High inspired the setting of Riverdale High School.
- 2. Rob Zombie** – Musician, filmmaker, and co-founder of the heavy metal band *White Zombie*.
- 3. Tom Bergeron** – Television personality and host (notably *Dancing with the Stars* and *America's Funniest Home Videos*)
- 4. Carlos Peña** – Professional baseball player (first baseman/designated hitter in MLB).
- 5. Jordan Harris** – NHL hockey player for the Boston Bruins.

Other Notable Alumni

- 6. Gene “Goo-Goo” Goodreault** – Standout football player at Boston College and College Football Hall of Famer; attended Haverhill High. [Wikipedia](#)
- 7. Frank A. Emilio** – Longtime Massachusetts state representative (3rd Essex District). [Wikipedia](#)
- 8. W. Scott Peters** – Lawyer and politician who served as District Attorney for Essex County; graduated from Haverhill High. [Wikipedia](#)
- 9. Charles Silvia** – Olympic-level swim coach and long-time Springfield College swimming coach. [Wikipedia](#)

Athletic Hall of Fame Highlights

Haverhill High also honors many former Hillies through its **Athletics Hall of Fame**, including standout athletes from football, track, basketball, volleyball, golf, and more — though these are often recognized for local athletic success rather than broader public fame. [whav.net+1](#)

Friends of the Haverhill Public Library Board Members 2025-2026

President	Teri Lyons
Vice President	Cindy Cavallaro
Treasurer	Pamela Drolet
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Ellis
Recording Secretary	

Shop	Patrice Davis and Cindy Cavallaro
Membership	Linda Koutoulas
Publicity	Allison Colby-Campbell
Website	Ursula Smith and Cindy Cavallaro
Newsletter	Joan Kimball and Teri Lyons
Calendar	Sue Veasey
Fundraising	Nicole Molesso and Elisabeth Brady
Diane Tarpy	
Kate Sirois	
Claudette Enright	
Michele Howard	
Patrice Davis	
Kaitlin Wright	
Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien	
Elisabeth Brady	

**PLEASE JOIN US AS A FRIEND OF THE
HAVERHILL PUBLIC LIBRARY!**

Info at the Friends Shop and Front Desk

or

[Friends of the Haverhill Public Library Website](#)

or

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