

Friends of the Haverhill Public Library Newsletter

Spring 2026

President's Message

Dear Friends of the Haverhill Public Library,

Happy Spring! We haven't had many nice spring days yet, so must enjoy them when we can! Lots to discuss in our newsletter today. Where to start? The construction is finally beginning. The first phase will close down the third floor and the Summer Street entrance, so please be aware of that when you're visiting. Parking might be difficult, depending on the time of day. But, eventually, we will have much needed repairs and an updating of the facilities.

Our Friends' Shop will stay open during this time, so please remember to stop in. We have so many beautiful items to purchase, and remember, being a Friend earns you a 10% discount. Would any of you be interested in volunteering in the Shop for two hours a week? We could really use your donation of time. You can come into the Friends' Shop to let us know, or go onto our website and volunteer. It is easy work and is certainly for a great cause!

The Board had a great time hosting a fundraiser, What's It Worth? (modeled after Antique Roadshow) at The Pinnacle at Harbor Place on May 3. We had Mr. Dan Meader, an antiques appraiser, who had so many interesting stories to share with us. Merchants in Haverhill and members of the board were so generous in donating beautiful baskets to raffle and fun things to eat. I want to thank Rogers Spring Hill Farms, Cedar's Mediterranean Foods, Nunan's Garden Center, Willow Springs Vineyard, The Winged Rabbit, Flowers by Steve, Vintage Views, Carolyn's Farm Kitchen, birdhouse artist Don Fumia, award winning photographer, Alison Colby-Campbell, and Octave Coffee Company. And a big thank you to George Peters of Harbor Place. You were so helpful and generous with your time. It was such a fun afternoon in such a beautiful place!

You may have noticed that the annual fee to be a Friend has gone up—for the first time in 15 years! It will cost \$20 a year now and a lifetime membership will be \$1000. Remember, everything we do goes directly into supporting the library, through programs, new books, furnishings, museum passes, etc. Our library director gives us a wish list every year. You can come into the Shop or go on our website to become a member.

The last Board meeting of the year is always interesting! It will take place June 9th and the public is welcome. Because of the construction, it will take place in City Hall, room 301, this year. The time will be 6:30 p.m. We will be introducing our new Board members at this time, along with an interesting program. Elaine Barker, who is a local treasure, will be presenting a talk about “The Art of the Handwritten Thank You note.” She will also provide the stationary for us to write. She will do a great job, we know, as she is such an interesting person!

In closing, I hope you all enjoy your summer and take time to relax with a good book!

Teri Lyons

President of the Friends of the Haverhill Public Library

Construction Updates

Sarah Moser, Library Director, presented a slide presentation overview of the -building project at the recent Friends Board meeting . There are two design teams-- OverUnder (Architects) for the outside of building and WestWork (Architects) for the inside of the building. The Construction Company is Erland.

This project started about 4 years ago as an idea. In June 2022 – October 2022 numerous community workshops were held to create a community wish list for the “new” Library. The project priorities included:

1. Make building comfortable
2. Expand Patron based services
3. Flexible spaces
4. Human Comfort
- 5.Improve Exterior
6. Invest in Sustainability (Green Building)

Goals included :

1. Youth Services
2. Meeting Rooms of different sizes
3. Welcoming entrance and atrium

4. Accessibility and better landscaping.

The project is expected to take about 16 months to complete. The initial phase of construction will begin on the 3rd Floor and Roof (4-6 months). Next, The 2nd Floor (4-months) and 1st Floor portion will begin in the back of space (Main Street Side). Finally, the front section, including the Friends Shop, will end the project (4-6 months). Completion is expected Spring 2027.

Funding for the renovation is entirely privately met through a generous donation from Macdougall Trust, other sponsors, and community donations.

Recent Fundraiser: What's it Worth



Dan Meader: Antiques Appraiser

Friends of the Haverhill Public Library

What's It Worth?

Antique & Vintage Appraisal Event

Hosted by the Friends of the Haverhill Public Library
in support of HPL

Sunday, May 3, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pinnacle at Harbor Place
2 Merrimack Street, 3rd Floor
Haverhill, MA

Join us for a fun and engaging event where expert appraiser **Daniel Meader** uncovers the stories behind your antiques and provides estimated values.

**Is it treasure or just clutter?
What items are truly worth collecting?**

Tickets Are Limited!
\$20 Appraised Item (Max 2)
\$10 Viewing Only

- Light refreshments
- Raffle items
- Paid parking available

Reserve online, in-store, or at the door **978-373-1586 Ext. 601**

Special thanks to Daniel Meader, Pinnacle at Harbor Place, and donors.

Friends of Haverhill Public Library

Slate for 2026 -2027

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Jackie Ellis

Nicole Molesso

Linda Koutoulas

Claudette Enright

Book Review

Teri Lyons

My Friends by Fredrik Bachman

I have been a big fan of Fredrik Bachman's books ever since I read his first one, A Man Called Ove. And he doesn't disappoint with his latest, My Friends. As usual, there is humor; with flawed, interesting characters that peel back layers like an onion, and SO much heartbreak. The story starts with a nearly 18 year old girl who has just run away from another foster home. Louisa is quite a mess, as she just lost her best friend to an overdose. In her mind, she feels a strong connection to a painting by C. Jat which she has only seen on a postcard. Louisa is an artist herself, with absolutely no confidence that she can do anything right. She sneaks into an art gallery which is hosting a very upscale party and auction to see the real painting. Of course, she makes some wrong moves and is chased out of the place because the clientele think she is there to protest and damage the painting. While hiding in an alley, she meets the real artist, learns he is dying, and begins to learn the background of this very special painting.

The artist was very close to three other friends when he was young. They also led difficult lives as children and knew poverty, abuse, and hunger. The four friends protected each other in their school, home lives (when they could), and around town. They had lots of adventures, especially the last summer they were all together. The reader learns details about this special summer very slowly, usually on a train ride that Louisa takes with the painter's friend, who bought the painting on the orders of the artist.

Fredrik Bachman is so good with developing his characters. And his latest effort continues to deliver.

Good read!!

Haverhill Hall of Fame

Dr. James Brickett

Since I am writing this on Memorial Day, I figured I would choose a veteran from the Haverhill Public Library's Wall of Fame.

James Brickett was the second son of a Newbury family, born in 1738. Since he couldn't inherit the farm, he went to Harvard and began his medical career as a surgeon's mate during the French and Indian Wars. In 1762 he moved to Haverhill to begin his medical practice at 136

Water St. which was his home, apothecary, and medical office. In 1774 he was made a Captain and was in charge of the Haverhill Artillery Company which eventually participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill. By 1776 he was promoted to Brigadier General and led his men in many major battles during the Revolutionary War. Once the war was over, Dr. Brickett returned home to Haverhill where built his practice while also being very involved in civic service in his adopted home town. He died in 1818 and is buried at Pentucket Cemetery in Haverhill.

The Friends' Shop

The Friends Shop at Haverhill Public Library, was established in 1989, and is one of the first library stores in America. The compact shop also expanded the concept of what a library shop could be by broadening the scope of items for sale.

The Friends Shop was recognized as Retailer of the Year in 2025 by the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce at the 34th Annual Business Awards Breakfast.

The store offers a treasure trove of gifts and indulgences for yourself, your friends and family. Savvy shop buyers frequent gift shows throughout the region to identify emerging trends, and seek out specialty items that will specifically appeal to our shoppers. We even offered Top It Off gloves before Oprah added them to her 2022 list of Favorite Things. Other popular items are:

Books by local authors

Seasonal decor

Unique jewelry

Branded Haverhill items

Fashion accessories

Children's toys

Baking mixes from Carolyn's Farm Kitchen

With the financial support from the Friends and its 100% volunteer run shop, the Library has been able to better serve the community. Friends & contributions have in part updated HPL technology, increased book

purchases, provided free museum passes for the public, replaced, repaired and updated furnishings and electronics, hosted community events, commissioned murals, funded a teen room, and more. Shop our shop, become a member, get on the Board, volunteer, or make a donation and become part of the change that is positioning the Library as the hub of our City.



Annual Meeting June 9, 2026 6:30 PM

Please join us with a special guest: Elaine Barker

THE FRIENDS OF THE HPL PRESENT:

THE ART OF THE

Handwritten

Thank You Note

PRESENTED BY ELAINE BARKER

JUNE 9, 2026 | 6:30 PM

CITY HALL, ROOM 301

ALL ARE INVITED!

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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