

# Minutes of the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library

**Date:** Wednesday May 3, 2023

**Present:** Nancy Axelson, Susi Burke, Amy Dorgan, Leah Knowlton, Joanna Meighan, Donna Onacki, Deborah Regan, Alisha Roberts, Jane Shanahan, Jean Storer, Judy Wilson.

## Discussed:

### 1. [Newburyport Festival Author Discussion Highlights](#)

*Note: Starred Authors were suggested as possible programs because they were good and nearby. But some others may be good as well. Discuss next steps at June meeting.*

- a. \*The Alan Lightman event was packed. He's a professor at MIT, has written several books, both fiction and nonfiction, and is the host of a PBS show. His new book is called Science and Spirituality. He was amazing.
  - b. \*Mirror to the Past: [Carla Panciera](#) (*Barnflower: A Rhode Island Farm*) was interesting and relatable; Dennis Donoghue, her husband, who wrote *The Final One Eighty* a memoir about teaching was also good. They live in Rowley, MA. Memoirs would be an interesting topic for a program.
  - c. Pass the Wine: Book Clubs Books panel: [Kirthana Ramisetti](#) (*Dava Shastri's Last Day, Advika, and the Hollywood Wives*) was fun. [Jane Roper](#) (*Society of Shame*) was provocative. She lives North of Boston and has written two novels and a memoir. [Nancy Crochiere](#) (*Graceland*) lives North of Boston.
  - d. [C. B. Bernard](#) (*Small Animals Caught in Traps*) was good and mentioned being willing to go to libraries. Note, his bio says most likely found somewhere off southern RI coast, although he has lived in NH before.
  - e. [Patricia Park](#), YA author (*Imposter Syndrome & Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim*) was good but lives in Brooklyn.
  - f. [Adam White](#) wrote *The Midcoast, a Novel* about Darimiscotta Maine. He lives in Boston.
  - g. No Reservations Required (Zoom) was fun. Panelists were [Jennifer Close](#) (*Marrying the Ketchups*) and [J. Ryan Stradal](#) (*Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club*) who live in DC and CA.
  - h. On Friendship (Zoom) was good with [Lane Moore](#), [Will Schwalbe](#), and [Christie Tate](#). They live in NY, CT and Chicago.
  - i. As it Turns Out: [Megan Marshall](#) and [Alice Sedgwick Wohl](#) about Andy Warhol's muse and Shaped by Loss about Emerson, Thoreau and William James weren't well received.
2. April Minutes – Approved
  3. Treasurer's report
    - a. Current balance: \$55,470.89 includes donation received from Novocure.
    - b. Alisha received \$2,872 from [Novocure](#) (Amy's company)
      - i. Amy will investigate as amount did not seem correct to her as a matching grant.
      - ii. Jane will write two thank you notes, one to Bill Doyle, Chairman of Board (who is in Portsmouth which is the US head of the company) and then one to Finance confirming the amount for them, our EIN and that no services were provided.
    - c. All museums passes that we had agreed on last month have been purchased except Strawberry Banke.
    - d. Poker Room: Picture date not established yet.

- e. Leah has requested Alisha purchase the Float down Saco \$100 gift card for the winter reading prize.
4. Director's Report (Joanna Meighan)
- a. NH Humanities Council Events
    - i. May 17th: History of Quilting with Pam Weeks
      - 1. Rescheduled from April to May because presenter was ill and had to cancel.
      - 2. Will be cohosted by historical society.
      - 3. Close to 50 people signed up.
      - 4. Nothing needed from Friends for this event.
  - b. Mandala painting
    - i. Wed, May 24 at 6pm is full.
    - ii. There has been a second session added the same day at 7pm.
    - iii. Approved \$200 for the second program.
  - c. Community Read- Braiding Sweetgrass
    - i. Joanna reached out to the speaker, [Damian Costello](#) and he went to NH Humanity. Looks like there is a good possibility to get a community outreach grant.
    - ii. Damian is from Vermont and is looking for place to stay.
    - iii. Full Day Event July 19<sup>th</sup>: Leah will read picture book to camp at Lincoln Akerman, and then to preschoolers at library. May try to include a program for seniors at The Meadows and a writing workshop for older kids.
    - iv. Possible addition to this would be a demonstration of weaving by the artist [Theresa Secord](#). She is a traditional Penobscot basket maker weaving Wabanaki baskets.
    - v. May need volunteers.
  - d. 8,000 Miles to The Crossroads and Beyond: Country Blues from Nepal
    - i. [Prakash Slim](#) – TJ Wheeler's friend from Nepal.
    - ii. Meet and Greet at 6 pm.
    - iii. 6:30 performance with slide show that is part of it.
    - iv. Sponsored by friends for \$300.
    - v. Scheduled for June 21.
  - e. Summer 2023 reading
    - i. New funding request for Center for Wildlife at end of July for \$250 + mileage.
    - ii. Program on Owls.
    - iii. \$300 approved.
5. Family Discover Kits
- a. New Family Box themed Altogether Now (Summer Reading Theme)
    - i. [Ruta Sepetys, You the Story](#) is a how-to book for aspiring writers.
    - ii. Storyteller cards
    - iii. Rory Story Cubes
    - iv. Journaling with Purpose Book
    - v. Journal Stencils
    - vi. Funding Request for \$100.
    - vii. \$100 Approved.
  - b. Meditation Box has been put together with items that existed at the library.
6. Ideas for getting word out about museums and the Friends organization.
- a. Donna and Judy worked on Friends Board with field trips based on museums in the different destination groupings. Board looks great.

- b. Joanna will create a bookmark with info on museums and maybe a QR code with link to website info on museums.
7. Museum passes
- a. Spent \$1,385 out of \$2,500 approved for museum passes. That doesn't include \$250 for [Strawbery Banke](#). There is about \$865 left to spend after Strawbery Banke from what has been allocated.
  - b. Fuller Gardens  
**\*NOTE: After the meeting, Judy found out the North Hampton Library has a special arrangement with Fuller Gardens "as a courtesy to North Hampton residents" and there is no library pass available generally.**
    - i. \$250, 2 people unlimited free visits, children free plus 5 guest passes. This looks like maybe an individual price, not a library price.
    - ii. Judy will try to contact North Hampton library that has a library pass and see how they purchased it.
  - c. Decided to focus on promoting existing Museum passes versus adding a lot more.
  - d. Possibly partner with Rec department to do "field trips."
  - e. Aquarium gift cards have been used.
8. Suggested Future Programs/Ideas
- a. [Black Heritage Trail of NH](#): Is there a library pass available for this? Does not appear to be. A friend of Donna's, Valerie Fagan, does the walking tours for them. Donna will reach out to her to see about a possibility of a tour for HFFL patrons.
  - b. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a [Frederick Douglass Statewide Readings](#) that maybe we could participate in.
  - c. Thinking about an event in Feb 2024. There is a book called Black Portsmouth by J. Sammons and Valerie Cunningham – may be an interesting book club read in February.
9. Little Free Library
- a. Good through July

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Jane:** Write thank you notes for Novocure.
- **Alisha:** Purchase Strawbery Banke Museum pass and Float the Saco gift cards
- **Judy:** Reach out to North Hampton Library for info on Fuller Gardens library pass.
- **Donna:** Contact Valerie Fagan about possible walking tour for HFFL patrons.

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:55 PM

**Next meeting:** June 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm, Election of Officers

Respectfully submitted,  
Susi Burke, Secretary