



Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library  
March-April 2025 Newsletter

**Letter from the President**

Happy Spring!

I hope that everyone had the chance to participate in the Library Feasibility Study survey and meeting and I urge everyone to read the report published after the public meeting in January.

There have been a few articles in *The Enterprise* on the discussion at Select Board meeting concerning the library. The first article was published on February 14<sup>th</sup> and there is another article about the library Trustee meeting in the February 28th edition. Please keep informed on this important matter concerning the future of our library building. Note that the Trustees' meetings are opened to the public if you wish to keep up-to-date on the issues that the library is facing.

All members of the Friends need to help spread the word about our library and ask people to keep informed on the issues that our library faces. In February, the ceiling in the Trustees' Meeting Room on the second floor fell in, collapsing during a rain storm. Luckily there was no one in the room at the time. Did you know that the library temperature is often less than 65 degrees and the staff has to work there for 8-hour days? These are just two of the many issues that we are facing.

National Library Week will be April 6 – April 12. If you are visiting the library that week, please take a moment to thank the librarians who work hard to make our experience within the library pleasant.

The Friends of the JBPL will be holding their Spring

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Book Sale in May - Book Drop off from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 3, and the book sale on Saturday, May 17. To make these book sales a success, we need people to help us set up the book from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on May 17, help us sell the books from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (2-hour shifts), and help us box up the books that we don't sell around 1:00 PM. If you are interested in helping with either the book drop-off or the sale, please send us an email at [jbplfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbplfriends@gmail.com). If you don't have email, please feel free to leave a message in our mailbox at the library. We can't do this without your help.

Please join us at the library for the many JBPL sponsored programs, including 31 Titles: Women in History on March 22 at 1 p.m. and The Trials of Susan B Anthony on March 29 at 1 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you at the book sale

*Anne Gregory*  
President

**Jonathan Bourne Public Library**  
**Director's Report for Dec. 2024 and Jan. 2025**

**TOWN WIDE**

In January the Town experienced a cyber event which impacted how the library provided internet, virtual programming, meetings, printing and wi-fi to the public. Additionally, our phones were down for almost a week. Social media and our library newsletter let our patrons know we were still here, and able to help if they emailed us, or came in person. Within a few days, staff were able to circulate books, assist patrons from staff computers that were brought back online via the CLAMS network and our hot spots. Other departments were not as lucky. Special thanks to Nicholas Schiller for coming in on days off to get us squared away as best as possible AND explaining what was happening in layman's terms.

To date, we are still unable to offer public printing or public wi-fi, but the public can use internet computers. Slowly each department is being brought fully back online.

**BUDGETS**

Due to the cyber event, I was unable to retrieve a budget status report as of January 31, 2025. The Finance Department provided one as of last Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The FY25 library budget is 62% expended. We are in good shape, despite the hourly employees (substitutes) line being over-expended from last summer's staffing issues.

The FY26 budget was presented by me to the Select Board and the Finance Committee. The directive to all departments was to provide a level service budget, which I did. A new initiative of a part-time Young Adult staff person was not given the green light to be included this year. This was an area designated by our most recent strategic plan as lacking. We will try again next year.

Facilities presented as part of their budget, a Capital Request involving the library, in the amount of \$150K for OPM (Owner's Project Manager) and Design funds for a newly designed library facility – either remodel the existing building, or build new..

**STAFF & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Terry, Judy and Beth and Sam attended a webinar focused on Summer Reading 2025 Ideas and Themes. This year's theme is *COLOR OUR WORLD*.

In the hopes of being more accessible, Judy, Sam, Kate and Loretta attended the webinar *Library Signage: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*

Additionally, all staff attended the Library Works webinar *Emotional Intelligence: Understanding Your and Others' Emotions for Self-Awareness, Empathy, and Guidance*. This webinar was made available to us from the MA Library System at no cost. My hope was staff would be a little more understanding with the public and each other.

**FACILITIES**

The Program Room was painted during the week between Christmas and New Year's. The Facilities Department did a very nice job.

The new meeting room chairs were also delivered during this time, so we began the New Year with a fresher look. Next up is to replace the window treatments, which the Friends have graciously agreed to help fund.

## Director's Report, cont.

### **FACILITIES, cont.**

Temperature fluctuations persist in some areas in the high 50s when we report to work, others in the low 60s. Staff and patrons are complaining they are cold. Facilities is trying to address the various systems and components that make up the library HVAC – it is a patchwork. Short-term Facilities brought in several space heaters. A limitation of this is areas where the heaters create a tripping hazard, do not have three feet of clearance for objects or areas where young children could touch it – basically the entire Childrens Department! One remedial effort being made is to place plastic on the larger library windows to help with heat loss.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

The provider of our website hosting (Piper Webs) announced he is closing his business and retiring in Fall of 2025. As a library Trustee himself, he knows what hardship this will place on many smaller libraries. Graciously he vetted three other web hosting companies that work with libraries in New England, who will migrate our information from his system to theirs. Prior to the cyber incident, Nicholas compared the three firms and their offerings, our needs, and our staff talent to maintain the new website. We are closing to a decision.

The public printer is still not available/attached to the computers. Typically, staff spends quite a bit of time troubleshooting coin jams and paper jams. Once the new website is up and running, the pay per print system will be revamped as well.

### **NALOX BOX PROJECT**

Small opiod rescue boxes are being placed throughout town buildings. The kit contains four doses of Narcan, medical gloves, rescue breathing mask and instructions. The Bourne PD will provide training to staff interested in admin-

istering Narcan in the event someone is in overdose distress. Each kit will be maintained and refilled by the Bourne PD.

Respectfully submitted,

*Irja Finn*

Irja Finn

## **Spring Is Coming! Honest!**

The old joke about the months of the year in Massachusetts (“January, February, March, March, March...”) seems to have a good bit of truth. But a look at the calendar reassures us that spring is coming.

An upcoming library program to help you make



the most of warmer weather is the return of horticulturalist Paul Split on April 9 at 6 p.m. Many of you have met Paul as a volunteer garden consultant at our book sales. He will be presenting

a program called Organic Seed Starting 101. A lecture will explore the possibilities of all-in-one gardening, from kitchen gardens to cutting gardens. Paul will then demonstrate techniques for seeding and propagation. Both annual and perennial seeds will be available. Best of all, following the lecture and demonstrations, each gardener will plant a 36-cell seed tray that includes a water tray, growing medium, fertilizer, and a selection of seeds. You can register for this event at:

<https://bournelibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/organic-seed-starter-101/>. Be sure to register early as space is limited.

The Library will also host free soil testing on April 5 from 9:30 to noon. Pick up the directions and complete the form available in the Library.

## ***It's Pretty Busy Around Here!***

When our social media covered the Library Feasibility report meeting, almost all commenters online expressed appreciation and support for the library. However, a tiny minority shared their opinion that, now that the internet is available, libraries are no longer necessary. The Friends of the Library thought it might be interesting to share a few statistics with you from 2024. Read through the information below and then decide for yourself if libraries are expendable or essential. [Note: These charts do not include the newsletters, printing, use of public workstations, and technology assistance the library provides to the townspeople of Bourne.]

### **FY24 – Children’s & YA Program Attendance**

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Programs Offered	24	17	17	37	28	8	23	31	30	28	44	2
Attendance	1141	541	233	738	480	306	357	617	485	567	601	228

### **FY24 - Children's and YA Circulation**

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Check out	1731	1792	1202	1307	1044	1165	1214	1343	1705	1147	1360	1196
Renewal	2237	2293	1675	1658	1533	1416	1274	1193	1766	1605	1744	1435

### **FY24—ADULT CIRCULATION**

FY24	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
CKO	11904	12630	10320	9850	9137	9062	9697	9019	10625	9731	10324	9068

There is no room to list here all the programs that were offered last year; they were remarkable in both quantity and variety. To see a sampling of the programs that will be offered during the coming months, see the next page of this newsletter or go online. **OUR LIBRARY IS A CRITICAL PART OF THE BOURNE COMMUNITY.** Please support it any way you can!

## Upcoming Events at the Library

[Check our calendar for more events and details!](#)

### March Adult Programs

3/1 - 2:00 p.m. -Live Music – **Irish Concert** – Denya & Julie

3/6 – 6:00 p.m. – Kindness Sharing – Grief 101

3/8 -1:00 p.m. – **St. Patrick’s Day Card** – String Art (Please register)

3/11 – 4:00 p.m. – Talk - **Layman’s Alzheimer’s Observations** by Charles Conway

3/15 -1:00 p.m. – Author Talk – **The Old Cape Map** by Barbara Eppich Struna

3/22 - 1:00 p.m. – Author Talk – **Women’s History Project** – Janis Daly Robinson

3/24 – 7:00 p.m. – Virtual Talk – **The Memoir of Ilse Seger: Wife, Mother, Hostage, Nazi Resister** (Zoom Link)

3/25 – 1:00 p.m. – **Medicare Supplement Plans or Medicare Advantage Plans? Which Coverage is Best for Me?** - Louisa Lewis

3/29 – 1:00 p.m. – Enrichment Lecture – **Susan B Anthony Trials** – Hon. Dennis J. Curran (Ret)

### April Adult Programs

4/1—6 p.m.—Upper Cape Naturalists Club

4/3—1 p.m.—Arbor Day Drawing Class (Please register)

4/5—Free soil testing, 9:30 a.m. to noon

4/5—Bourne Braves. Time TBD.

4/8—Keyboard performance by Richard Amir

4/9—6 p.m.—Organic Seed Starter 101 with Paul Split (See page 3.)

4/12—2 p.m.—Author talk and writing session with Kathy Aspden

4/16—3:30 p.m. —Monthly Poetry Group

4/29—6 p.m.—Author talk—Larchmont Remembered

### Special Events for Kids

3/6—9:30 a.m.—Drop-in Family Story and Play with Miss Judy (Up to 5 years old)

3/8—10 a.m.— Science Saturday (Ages 3+) on worms

4/12—Science Saturday, 10 a.m. (Ages 3+) on magnets

4/18—10 a.m.—Egg Hunt

4/22—Bubble Show, 10 a.m.

4/25—Paint Party (Please register. For ages 5+)

### Ongoing Monthly Events at Bourne Library

**Fiber Friends**— Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m.— 12 p.m. All levels welcome (try our beginner project).

**Knitting Group** - Thursday evenings 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. All abilities welcome – bring your own project or try our beginner project

**Bullet Journaling** – Thursdays 3- 4:30 p.m. - Supplies provided, No experience needed

### Book Clubs:

3/18 - 6 p.m.— **James** by Percival Everett

3/19 - 2 p.m. – **Insane City** by Dave Barry

3/27 - 6:30 p.m. – **Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone** by Benjamin Stevenson

**Coming Soon—Seed Library**

## The Children's Corner

Walt Disney's animated film *Peter Pan* song lyrics give good advice: "Never smile at a crocodile, no. you can't get friendly with a crocodile..." But it looks like alligators can be friendly, if we can judge from this picture of Aiden Cox (right). He met his new friend at an extremely popular children's program, where young children were invited to learn about and even handle "Rainforest Reptiles." Snakes, iguanas, turtles and other reptiles are fascinating to children, and this show gave them a chance to get up close and personal.

Another recent program was the Toe Jam Puppet Band (below right), making music and fun for many children. They sang along, danced along, and enjoyed the "monkey shines" of the band, a great way to brighten a cold winter day.

These and other programs for children are the



result of the hard work and creativity of our exceptional children's librarian, Terry Johnson. Terry draws her ideas from exploring children's performing groups on the internet, from the performers and teachers themselves, from recommendations from other librarians, and from her own extensive experience as a preschool and daycare teacher, mother, and grandmother. To advertise the programs and draw in an enthusiastic audience, she even designs her own cheerful flyers. She started as an assistant librarian at the Jonathan Bourne Library in 2000.

### ***Time to Renew!***

Are you enjoying reading about the events sponsored by the Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library? Have you attended some of them and learned from them? Want to help children play and learn and grow? Then please step up now to renew your membership! Go to <https://www.bournelibrary.org/Pages/Index/182460/friends-of-the-library> to renew easily. Please renew by April 1.



Continued on next page

## ***Children's Corner, cont.***

Terry already has plans for spring and summer activities and has begun working to implement them, both indoors and out. There will be an Easter egg hunt in the field behind the library at 10 a.m. on April 18; the eggs are already being stuffed by a high school volunteer with goodies like stickers, tattoos, and fruit snacks. Mr. Vinny from Toe Jam will be presenting a bubble show with giant bubbles for young patrons to chase on April 22 at 10 a.m. Older children may be interested in an upcoming paint night or might even enjoy being buccaneers on Pirate Night. There will be a Build Wave night, during which each table or family will receive a box of building materials, each will build different things, and then a slide show will showcase their evening's creativity.

An extensive summer reading program will encourage young readers to explore books, but also to stretch their artistic vision. Organized by the Collaborative Summer Reading Program, its theme this year is "Color Our World," with an array of bright graphics to inspire children.

When asked about her wish list if the library is restored or replaced, Terry hopes that there will be a dedicated children's program room. She feels the children's wing needs more open space and greater area for storage. For younger children, she would like to see less adult-size furniture and more furniture suitable for kids. It would be ideal if the space could be split so that several programs could be run simultaneously.

To learn more about the programs planned for children this summer, be sure to look at the library newsletter or the events calendar, both of which can be found through links on the library home page at <https://www.bournelibrary.org/>.

## ***A Close Look at the Past***

We all had to read the history books in school, but have you ever looked closely at your own family's history? How to do that was the focus of a six-week course on genealogy taught by David S. Martin from the Cape Cod Genealogical Society, for 25 library patrons.

Some of the topics David and guest speakers covered included immigration and migration; various search engines that can be used for research; the benefits of genealogy software; DNA in genealogy; using the U.S. Census; finding key facts in a will; the difference between a pedigree chart and a descendant chart; and using land and probate records. The course used actual case studies to solve "brick-wall" genealogical problems.

To learn more about the resources available to you, check the Cape Cod Genealogical Society's website at <https://capecodgenealogy.org/>.

*—Linda DeBenedictis*

## ***Chocolate and Coffee—Perfect!***

35 patrons of the Library came on a cold January night to a "Perky Pairing" workshop on the history of two favorites—coffee and chocolates. Participants were able to taste different varieties of each throughout the class. They learned about the health benefits, different methods of brewing, and even the history of the very first "baristas."





## Application to Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library

The Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library is a non-profit organization that promotes our Library. We help fund programs, resources, services and equipment not made available through the normal operating budget or capital outlays appropriated by the Town of Bourne. Your membership entitles you to attend our monthly meetings.

Please print and complete the application below, and drop off at the library or mail to:

**Friends of the Jonathan Bourne Public Library  
19 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA 02532**

Name:	
Address:	
Email:	Phone:

Check	Membership Type	Fee	\$ Enclosed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65 or older)	\$20 Annual	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$30 Annual	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$50 Annual	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime	\$500	
	<i>Help us provide more free programs and services at the Library!</i>		
		Additional Donation	
		<b>Total</b>	

You can join by going to the Jonathan Bourne Public Library website and click on "Friends". You can pay via PAYPAL. <https://www.bournelibrary.org/Pages/Index/182460/friends-of-the-library>

We are always in search of volunteers.  
Would you be interested in helping in one of the following areas?

Events & Activities \_\_\_\_\_      Spring/Fall Book Sale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Season of Giving Auction \_\_\_\_\_      Publicity / Marketing \_\_\_\_\_

**“The more we read, the better we can build up and expand our knowledge.”**



## 2025 Calendar

Monthly Board meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 1:00–3:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room. (Meetings may be held by Zoom, at the discretion of the President.) Please note that the calendar will be updated in each newsletter if dates change.

### March

*March-April Newsletter*

**Board meeting — March 24, 1 p.m.**

### April

**Board meeting — April 28, 1:00 p.m.**

### May

**Board meeting — May 19, 1:00 p.m.**

**Book Drop-off — May 3, 10 a.m. to noon**

**Book Sale — May 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*May-June Newsletter*

## An Easier Way to Give

We have added PayPal to our Friends page on the Library web-site. There are two buttons there, one for membership dues; the other is for donations.



PayPal

Please use the donation button to pay for Caring and Sharing items.

We would be delighted to have you “click away”; and send what you can to support your

## 2025-2026 Board

**Anne Gregory, *President***

**Nancy Selchan, *Secretary***

**Marilyn Tarallo, *Treasurer***

**Eileen Mattingly, *Communications***

**Laura Bergeron, Helen Bresnahan,**

**Betsy Woodley, Elizabeth Ferris,**

**Linda DeBenedictis,**

*Members at Large*

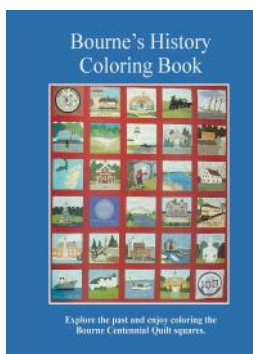
## Own a piece of Bourne’s History!

If you have been in the community room at the Bourne Library, you have no doubt seen the

amazing quilt that hangs in a case there. The images in the quilt are all scenes from Bourne’s history, drawn by art teachers in local schools and appliqued and quilted by a group of local quilters.

A coloring book made from these sketches is still available

for you to see in the children’s room. But a newly-reprinted edition with additional information is now available for sale at the front desk for \$5.00. All proceeds from the sales go to support library programs.



**Friends of the Jonathan Bourne  
Public Library**

**19 Sandwich Road**

**Bourne, Massachusetts 02532**

[https://bournelibrary.org/Pages/  
Index/182460/friends-of-the-library](https://bournelibrary.org/Pages/Index/182460/friends-of-the-library)



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