

Friends of the Agawam Public Library



Spring, 2023
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MEMBER MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7:00 pm. in the Pierce conference room the first Thursday of each month, except July and August.

The Annual Board Meeting immediately follows February's monthly meeting.

BE IN TOUCH

Participate:

At a monthly meeting or at any of our events.

Send us an Email:

friendsapl@yahoo.com

Visit our web page:

www.agawamlibrary.org/
about/friends

Drop us a note:

Friends of
the Agawam Public Library
P. O. Box 478
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP

The membership form is available at the Friends' Information Stand in the Library. Gallery and online at our web page, above.



A Word from the Editor:

What exciting times for our beloved library! There are lots of new faces, and tons of new programs going on. The Friends are getting back to normal, post-COVID status, and it feels great to be reviving our old programs, and starting some new ones. We were very pleased to have raised \$1700 through our Holiday Basket Raffle, and to have attracted 118 entries to our Photography Show. A Flower Bulb Fundraiser has started and orders are accepted until May 15. Please visit the Friends section of the Library's website for more details:

<https://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/>

Unfortunately, Amazon has discontinued their Smile program, but we extend a sincere thank you to all of you who helped us out through that program.

The one theme that has been a constant through the years is the outstanding people who work at the library. It is important to acknowledge and appreciate the work they put in every day to make the Agawam library so exceptional. In this newsletter, you'll meet some new faces and one "old" one who didn't get interviewed previously due to COVID. You will be very impressed by their credentials, their enthusiasm and their desire to make a meaningful contribution to the library. We welcome you all!

Speaking of new faces, we would like to see some at our monthly meetings! Please consider participating in our meetings, and passing the word in the community to encourage people to join the Friends. We could really use some "new blood" and new ideas.

Mary Alice McQuade

*Many thanks to all of our
Generous Supporters!*

COMING EVENTS

May 15 *Deadline to order your bulbs and flowers.*

June 23 *Eat at E.B's and support your library.*



We have exciting news: The Friends of the Agawam Public Library has partnered with Flower Power Fundraising to offer a gorgeous assortment of spring flowers to beautify your garden. For every dollar spent, the Friends will receive half! The proceeds will be used to help support the Agawam Public Library by providing them with funds that are not in their general funding. You can enhance your garden and at the same time help support the library. Act soon: this fabulous opportunity ends May 15th, 2023.

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/friendsofagawamlibrary>

All Proceeds to benefit the Agawam Public Library

ABOUT AMAZON SMILE

Unfortunately, Amazon has decided to terminate this program. A sincere thank you to all who supported us through Amazon Smile!

WE NEED YOU!

Are you looking for a way to contribute to your community, meet more people, stimulate your brain, have some laughs and generally feel good about yourself????

Consider joining the Friends of the Library. We need new ideas, and more help. We need you! Please come to a meeting to check it out and see if it would be something you'd like to do.

Fun Fact

In 1859 the Springfield library was solely supported by volunteer donations. The Springfield Republican advocated for expanding the "meager" library. "There is little doubt that a more general habit of reading would be established among all classes of our citizens, which would tend greatly to furnish the mind with valuable information, in addition to the influence it would have in affording a pleasant occupation to our young people, who now are forced to contrive worse methods of spending their time." (It seems that people complaining about towns not having enough for teens to do is not a new problem!)

MEET THE STAFF

We have many new faces at the library! To include people not previously interviewed and all the new staff, a questionnaire was developed to learn more about the amazing people who make our library so special. Enjoy meeting these special people!



Chad William Pelley

Circulation Services/Technical Services

Chad has worked at the library since 2017, so he is one of the gems who helped the library survive COVID and construction. He is the third generation of his family to work for the town of Agawam. His grandmother was an Administrative Assistant at Town Hall and his father was a firefighter. Talk about a legacy!

Home Town: Feeding Hills

Education: Associates Degree in Horticulture: Landscape Design and Plant Science from Springfield Technical Community College, Bachelors Degree in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice from Westfield State College and a Masters Degree in Information and Library Science from Simmons University

What brought you to the Agawam Library?

I started working in the Agawam High School Library during my high school years in the early to mid-1990s. I had always wanted to work in the Agawam Public Library and my wish came true after attending library school and volunteering for the library for years.

Responsibilities at the Library: Supervising the Circulation Desk, Cataloging

Favorite part of your job: My job allows me to add many personal interests to the library. As an example, taking care of our ever-growing houseplant collection. I am working on creating informational cards about each plant to make it an educational experience for the public. I also love the great conversations that occur with library patrons that visit us each day.

Favorite thing about the library: Our dedication to serving individuals and families regardless of background or beliefs. It is a safe environment and everyone is welcome here.

What would you like to see happen at the library?

I would love to see a reader's café created in our main entryway. We have had many requests for this over the years. We could offer a selection of coffees, teas and some snacks such as baked goods for sale. Perhaps it could be run by volunteers with all profits donated to the library through the Friends.

What would you like the people of Agawam to know about the library?

As our motto states, "So Much More Than Books". We offer free programs each month, discount and free museum and park passes, digital books, music, and movies are all part of your library card membership.

Favorite author: Too many to mention.

Favorite book: Too many favorites to choose just one, but I love anything non-fiction.



Charlie Pope

Information and Adult Services Library Associate

Home Town: Westfield

Education: Bachelors in English Literature from Mount Holyoke

What brought you to the Agawam library?

Most of my experience has been in very small libraries, so I wanted to see what it was like working somewhere larger, and Agawam seemed like the perfect fit!

Responsibilities at the library: I handle resource sharing and Interlibrary loans, which includes sending out items to other libraries to use throughout the state as well as requesting items from all over the country for our patrons. I also help manage the website and create the monthly adult e-newsletter. I help our Adult Services Librarian, Cher, with the Large Print accounts, as well as assist in program planning for adults. I work as part of the information team with Erica and Wendy, so you'll often find me at the Information Desk.

Favorite part of your job: I love working on the website! I recently redesigned the Children's and Friend's pages and I'm currently working on a new page for Adult Services.

Favorite thing about the library: Definitely the staff: everybody who works here is so kind and thoughtful.

What would you like the people of Agawam know about the library?

Every day our services and resources are growing and expanding-we truly have something for everyone.

Favorite author: I really love the fantasy novelists N.K. Jemisin and S.A. Chakraborty, and I'm a big fan of Agatha Christie's mysteries.

Favorite book: Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik



Evan Delano

Children's Associate

Home Town: West Hartford

Education: About to finish Masters in Library Science from Simmons at the end of April..

What brought you to the Agawam Library?

I was excited about the opportunity to work with both kids and teens in such a wonderful library.

Responsibilities at the library: Helping teens, kids and their families find books and information, and planning and presenting programs for kids and teens.

Favorite part of your job: Getting to know patrons of all ages. Also, the crafts!

Favorite thing about the library: The amazing staff, the natural light, the grandfather clock and the picture book section.

Who is your favorite author?

This is a tough one. Louise Erdrich is one of my favorite authors of books for adults.

Can you pick a favorite book?

I could never choose! But I'm currently reading *When the Angels Left the Old Country* by Sacha Lamb and I love it.

Anything to add?

I'm excited to get to know this community. Come say hello in the Children's Room!



Erica LeFebvre

Adult Services Library Associate

Home Town: Granville

Education: Bachelors in Computer Science from Gettysburg College

Responsibilities at the library: Sitting at the Information Desk, running social media, ordering Overdrive ebooks and audiobooks, managing the art gallery, assisting with programs, and book displays.

Favorite part of your job: Being around books and getting to work with books.

Favorite thing about the library: The staff!

What would you like to see happen at the library?

More teen programs.

What would you like the people of Agawam to know about the library?

There is so much that the library does-that it is worthwhile for people of every age out there to keep an eye on our programming and offerings.

Favorite author: Neil Gaiman

Can you pick a favorite book?

Not really, but two really good ones are *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisen and *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke.

Become a Friend of the Agawam Public Library

If you like what the Friends do for the library, find your category, below, and join us!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Membership is for a calendar year. Please check one.)

Individual \$15 Senior Citizen (65 & over) \$10 Senior Citizen Couple \$15
 Family \$20 Organization/Business \$50 Patron \$75
 I enclose an additional contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address* _____ Tel. # _____

New Member Renewing Member * For newsletters & occasional communications distributed electronically among the Friends.

I am interested in volunteer opportunities. Please call ___ or email me ___ (check one)
May we acknowledge you as a Friend by including your name in our newsletter? Yes__No__.

Please send your completed application and check to:

**FRIENDS of the AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
PO Box 478
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478**

Membership fees and contributions are tax-deductible, subject to IRS limits. The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Friends of the Agawam Public Library
P.O. Box 478
Feeding Hills MA 01030-0478

TO:



Remember a loved one. Honor a special friend. Give a gift that will last forever. Consider a memorial donation in someone's name to the Friends of the Agawam Public Library.

Email: friendsapl@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.agawamlibrary.org>