



## Newsletter

April 2022

President: Barbara A. Beech

Vice President: Frank Smith

Secretary: Janice Narsasian

Treasurer: Chris Mullin

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## Farewell to Uma Hiremath!



Dozens gathered at the Queset House on March 25, 2022, to bid a fond farewell to Library Director Uma Hiremath upon her retirement. Speeches reminded us of Uma's warmth, kindness, talent, and professionalism. Many speakers regaled us with stories, including Connor Read, Ed Hands, Hazel L. Varella, Barbara A. Beech, Ian Dunbar, Stephanie Roberts, Madeline Miele Holt, Vani Sundaram, Michelle Duprey, Donna Richman, and William M. Ames. Gifts included fossilized dinosaur dung from Ed Hands and a gorgeous photo book created by Michelle Duprey.



At the Friends of the Ames Free Library meeting in March, we voted unanimously to give Uma an honorary lifetime membership to our group. During the retirement celebration Barbara A. Beech presented the updated plaque, which you can see in the Book Room at Queset House.



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## ***From Our President***

As of April 1st, Uma Hiremath, our beloved Ames Free Library Executive Director, has retired. Uma is known for all her great personal qualities as well as for her professional accomplishments. Her energy, great ideas, charm, hands-on approach and cheerful manner endear her to all who meet her.

Uma has accomplished so much during her fourteen years at the library. Due to her leadership the library has received awards for excellence, the Queset Garden has been restored and revived, and the Queset House has been developed into a center for learning and enjoyment. In addition, Uma and her staff did an amazing job dealing with the difficult issues of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even with her many duties and responsibilities, Uma has always taken the time to help and support the Friends of the Ames Free Library with our projects.

Thank you, Uma, for all you have done and for being such a great role model for us all. We will miss you! Enjoy your retirement.

—Barbara A. Beech, President

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## Your Donations at Work

Through the years we have supported many aspects of the library's programming. This year we helped to fund costs of grammar, vocabulary, and social studies textbooks and other supplies for English for All, which has been serving the local immigrant community through the Ames Free Library since 2017. Program Director Julie Un sends her warm thanks to the Friends.

Michele Blake spearheaded an update to our bookmarks, with input from several other board members. You can find the beautiful new bookmarks at the circulation desk in the library and in the Book Room at the Queset House. Share one with a friend and spread the word about our book sales!

Also this quarter we solicited bids from local electricians for the installation of new lighting in the Book Room and our work room in the Queset House. With the kind assistance of the building's manager, Tim Hurley, we chose a vendor. Walkus Enterprises LLC installed multiple energy-efficient lights in the ceiling to make your browsing an even more pleasant experience.

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## Book Sales in the Queset House

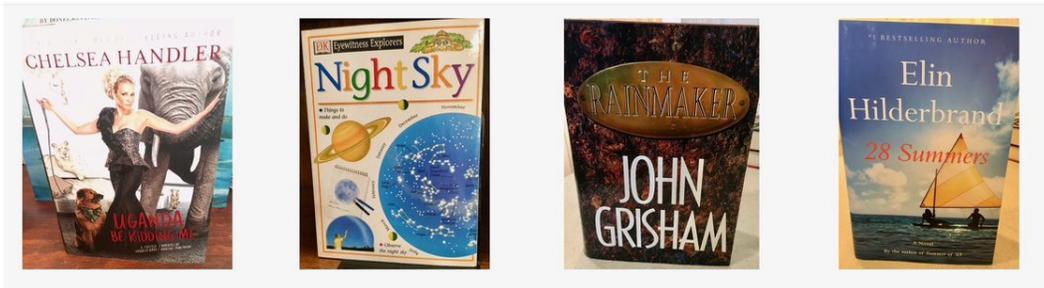
Sales of used books, in addition to membership fees and donations, supply the funding we need to provide library materials and programs not included in the library's budget. Browse the Book Room from Monday thru Thursday, 1 to 8 pm, and on Friday and Saturday, 1 to 5 pm. The Queset House is to the right of the library at 51 North Main Street, North Easton, MA 02356.

### What's in the Book Room?

Hundreds of books for sale!

See our Facebook page (link below) for information about some of the latest additions to the Book Room.





## Donate Your Books

Between 1 and 5 PM on Saturdays, you're welcome to donate gently used books in **excellent** condition at the Book Sale Room in the Queset House. Sales of high-quality books help us support the library.

**Books in poor condition will not be accepted.** Please note our criteria:

- Only 25 books per donation
- No dust, mold, stained or torn pages, or notes in the margins. If you wouldn't buy it, please don't donate it!
- No textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, dictionaries, or CDs
- Never leave books outside the building

If you want to donate more than 25 books in excellent condition, please contact the Friends at [amesfreefriends@gmail.com](mailto:amesfreefriends@gmail.com) to make an appointment. Many thanks for your understanding.

If you have books to donate that do not meet our criteria, you might try [More Than Words](#) (617-674-5555), which offers curbside pickup by appointment.

If you have paperback dictionaries to donate, contact [Providence Books through Bars](#).

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**We will hold a sale at the Queset House on Saturday, May 21. Most books will be sold at half off our usual low prices. Details to come!**

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## Get Involved - Join Us!

In February our membership chair, Sue McGarry, mailed renewal letters to all current and lapsed members. It's heartening to see you re-join our efforts in helping support the Ames Free Library!

Your tax-deductible membership entitles you to free books in the Book Room. Each membership level comes with a different number of coupons for free books. If you haven't yet signed up, please fill out our membership [form](#) and mail it to us with your check made payable to "Friends of the Ames Free Library." Our address: Friends of the Ames Free Library, PO Box 61, North Easton, MA 02356-0061.

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Friends of the Ames Free Library  
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The Friends of the Ames Free Library is a nonprofit organization integral to promoting and supporting the [Ames Free Library](#) of Easton, MA. For more information please visit our website at <https://www.amesfreelibrary.org/friends-library> and our Facebook page [@weloveamesfreelibrary](#).

Send monetary donations to Friends of the Ames Free Library, PO Box 61, North Easton, MA 02356-0061.

Contact the Friends at [amesfreefriends@gmail.com](mailto:amesfreefriends@gmail.com) and Sylvia Frank Rodrigue, newsletter editor, at [AFLFriendsNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:AFLFriendsNewsletter@gmail.com).



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