

LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
August 20, 2019

Memberships and Circulation: We currently have 248 members and 188 books in circulation! This year, the addition of Wifi with a membership (or rather, the rule that you need a membership to get the Wifi code!) has helped boost our membership sales, and an increased membership price (now \$15 and \$25 from \$10 and \$20) has not met with any resistance. There continues to be an island-wide issue of decreasing memberships within our organizations, so we still ought to put thought into how to make membership attractive. However, I also believe that if circulation numbers and our donations remain high, then we are still fulfilling our mission regardless of how many members we have.

New Books: The following books were added to our collection this year, thanks to Carol Burdick and her fantastic book committee (Candis Kerns, Kathie Iannicelli, Pamela Rollinger, Casey Court, Sue Hitchcox, Paul Goldsmith, Beth Van Houten, Laurie Day, Ann Hughey):

Children's and Young Adult...23
Poetry...17
Fiction...47
Mystery...27
Sci Fi...17
Biography...18
Science and Nature...14
Non Fiction...17
Art...11

We are gearing up for our Book Sale on Wednesday! I have much appreciated the storage shed to hold the books that have been “culled” from our collection throughout the summer.

We continue to not accept book donations (either from authors or folks with extra books) unless under special circumstances. And of course, donations continue to pop up unsolicited. I am working on making this rule known as our space issues become crucial.

Interlibrary loan is, as ever, a useful tool for supplying patrons with any books we happen not to have, as well as getting multiple copies for discussions and events.

The **computer room** continues to be only lightly used, though the copier/scanner and the laminator are important year-round. I am in the process of replacing one computer (the one by the window) with another used monitor from PCs for Maine (a low-cost computer initiative for nonprofits), the same place that supplied ones we currently have. They will recycle our old computer via UPS.

The addition of **Wifi** (which took far longer than expected and was not installed until late May!) has been very exciting! I currently have it password protected. When the summer season ends, I intend to “unlock” it so that our island residents may use it freely, then set new password for the start of summer 2020. It has made it easier for me to perform routine tasks, and has been greatly appreciated by our patrons. So far no one has any complaints about paying membership dues to get the code, nor have I seen any evidence that people are “oversharing” the code. At the peak of summer about 10 people per shift were on it both inside and on the lawn. Patrons use it primarily for work, followed by quite a few doing homework/online classes. And our organizations who share this space (AA, MISCA, MAI to name a few) are now able to look things up and host Zoom meetings for remote attendance, all with far greater ease. Atmospherically, I have not at all found that it overcrowds the Library or encourages noise, nor do people need my help using it. Offering Wifi despite our fears has in fact drawn people into our beautiful space and greatly enhanced our community service offerings. I would say our patrons agree, as I've heard nothing but positive feedback about it. And the speed is great—way better than at my house!

This winter I completed the final step of our **card cataloging project**— our card catalog is now searchable online! Just go to our website (www.monheganlibrary.com) and you will see a tab on the right to access it. Of course, our physical card catalog is regularly updated and still functions beautifully! Our **Facebook page** (follow @Monhegan Memorial Library) is something I continue to keep lively as well. An e-mail newsletter, perhaps along the lines of “what’s happening at the Library in the middle of January...” is an idea I’m toying with, since many patrons ask if we send emails.

Donations were fruitful from both the Winter Fundraising letter and the Annual Membership Letter, written by Candis Kerns and Miki Partridge, respectively. We have decided to continue to print, stuff and most importantly, mail the letters from Monhegan in order to support our local Post Office. (And it results in reduced costs for us!)

For summer **programming**, I continue to hold weekly Writing Group while Corlis Carroll does Story Hour on the lawn. I am happy to report that our “off-season” programming was better than ever, in part because I was able to work all winter. I held weekly Story Hours with the Monhegan School and we had a great Winter Book Group, meeting every month to discuss titles like “Overstory” and “The Reluctant Fundamentalist.” Most exciting was a new program started by Island Institute Fellow Dan DeBord in collaboration with Monhegan Coffee Roasters—Community Coffee Hour! We held this event twice monthly; Mott and Carley brewed coffee, I made snacks to eat and we all played cribbage, chatted and had a great time! Each Coffee Hour was well attended and anticipated. I am thrilled with this event and intend to continue after Indigenous People’s Day. It is so important to have regular times to socialize when it is the dead of winter and our community is so small! Thank you to Dan and of course, Mott and Carley! I hope to keep up this energy even if I don’t end up being here a full 12 months...

We’ve had some very successful **events** this summer, including a book talk by Jerry Vis, to be reprised this fall, and a fabulous presentation from Marine Mammals of Maine about their work rescuing seals. Upcoming events include our first Movie Night (showing “Hidden Figures”) on Saturday, and a poetry reading by Larkin Christie, a local worker at the Island Inn. This year we had a few events in the daytime and they were well attended, so I will keep this in mind for next year. There are only so many evenings in a week and with all the island organizations competing for time, it can be hard to squeeze it all in!

And of course, there was our **Distinguished Writers Series** with Lois Lowry! I have to congratulate everyone on a job well done. This event went so smoothly, even despite a last minute schedule change. Both of her Author Talk and her Writers Q & A had overflowing audiences. Lois Lowry was a pleasure to work with and seemed to equally enjoy the festivities. The feedback I have gotten about this event has been phenomenal. Even those who weren’t able to attend were impressed that we hosted Lois. I feel that bringing her here changed the playing field in terms of attracting big name writers to our program. A huge thank you to my committee: Margot, Jan, Michael and Miki for all your help in coordinating this. A special thank you to Lisa Jahn-Clough for putting us in touch with Lois Lowry! I am excited to start planning for 2020. I would love to prioritize diversity in the next speaker—bringing a writer of color to the island would be very exciting!

Other than gearing up to search for our next Distinguished Writer, there’s not much **new business** to report. I would like to have the porch cleaned, as well as getting another general clean of the Library. I have not been consistent in hiring cleaners and will try to do better this year at keeping the inside of the Library in ship-shape!

Now that the card catalog project is complete, I intend to spend some time with our “Monhegan” section. We have many interesting documents as well as books. I would like to put some of our Monhegan materials on our website. I recently did some rearranging in order to have a “book display” space where I can feature various books and authors.

This year Eileen kindly took some things from the shed for the rummage sale. I still have a few larger items, notably a shelf and a broken globe, that I need to get rid of. Any ideas or help welcome!

Last but certainly not least, we are commemorating the Fiction Section in memory of Sue Bolman. I would like to get a plaque installed saying her name and the dates she served the Library. We should aim to have a commemoration ceremony next summer.

As always, I am honored to work at the Monhegan Memorial Library. I am proud of the work we do here and excited to see what 2020 holds for us! Thank you to the board, my co-librarian Matt Holtzman, and our community for all your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Mia Boynton