

## ***LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT***

### ***August 15, 2022***

**Memberships, Circulation and Visitation:** We have 218 members and 155 books in circulation. In July we had 773 visitors. This all seems about average with where we were last year, although circulation is a little under. In terms of operations, we have no visitor limits anymore, and masking is encouraged but optional.

**New Books:** This year *again* books were delayed. However, they were not as delayed as much as prior years, and we do have most of our new books on the shelves now. We have added 194 new titles to our collection. The selections are particularly good this year and are being much enjoyed. For this next round, I plan to arrange book deadlines such that we have plenty of time to get as many books as possible by July 1. (Books are not invoiced until they are shipped.) I am thus hoping to avoid or at least mitigate the large book budget carryover we have been having since 2020.

**Interlibrary loan** has continued uninterrupted and is a wonderful service for patrons.

Our **Website and Facebook page** are still active. Last year I started an **Instagram** account to highlight my favorite books in our collection. I've been slow to post on that page, but I continue to grow the account because I think it's nice to have a dedicated space that's not for promotion, but simply about honoring and celebrating the beauty of our books. This spring again I did a Poetry Challenge where I read books of poetry and posted about them. I did this both on Facebook and on Instagram Stories.

Another new outreach venture is our **newsletter!** I am currently compiling one to send via Mailchimp to all our members who have provided (legible!) email addresses on their membership cards. (In the future, readers may subscribe/unsubscribe online). I plan to send the newsletter quarterly by season, and our inaugural Summer edition will go out by the end of August. Expect notes about books, guest features, random fun things and snippets of island news. Each edition will be different. Look for it in your inboxes and on our website!

Our **Wifi** is slower this year and the signal sometimes drops. I think this problem is not solely with us—Jes Stevens has said the School is also having issues and I think it is a problem with MSLN (Maine Schools and Library Network). The internet is still pretty good by island standards and continues to be widely used. This year, I've been tracking how many memberships have been bought with the sole purpose of using Wifi. That number is relatively small. Since the start of the fiscal year in July, I've counted 11 memberships that were bought only to use the internet, where no books were checked out. To compare, 22 memberships have been bought since August 1st and 65 memberships were bought during the month of July.

Last year we did away with the computer room, and instead purchased a **laptop** for both staff and patron use. I use the laptop to accession books and access files previously stored on our desktop computer. Patrons have used it to browse the web and print documents. The laptop is more than sufficient for the level of demand currently—the computer room isn't missed. It is however, now useful as a private office where patrons can work if they require extra quiet or, conversely, if they need to be a little louder (as when teaching an online class, for example).

Another big news item in the technology department: the Library now takes credit cards and Apple pay! We have a **Square terminal** which has been in much demand. I can't believe we didn't do this sooner. Prices are \$1 more when paying by credit card. This is stated before any transaction, and no one has taken issue with it. There is a \$10 minimum, and American Express is not accepted. As of the writing of this report, here are our statistics: \$1,210 gross sales (\$1,195 net sales), representing 28 individual sales transactions, since getting the terminal on July 16th.

As for the Library as a **communal meeting place**, AA is gathering here twice a week as usual, hosting hybrid meetings both in person and on ZOOM using the Meeting Owl. MISCA and the Assessors also continue to use the space year-around. There have also been one-off town events, such as a talk on the Lobster Survey which happened last week.

When it comes to Library sponsored **programming**, Corlis is doing Story Hour on the lawn again, and it seems especially popular this year. I have settled on holding Writing Group every other Tuesday. So far attendance has been minimal. I think these kinds of programs wax and wane: when I started Writing Group, I had a true "group" of writers, consisting of summer hotel workers. Those people have since moved on, and Writing Group is now mainly tourists who come through, so it is naturally more unstable. I'm not bothered by this. Writing Group works just as well with 3 as with 15. I do think it makes sense to keep it biweekly though. I also run an Online Writing Group, and that has been immensely successful. I have 13 participants to whom I email a prompt every month, and then we share our writing, again via email. Some actively share each time, but others have told me they very much enjoy working on the prompt privately in their own time. Some have even used my prompts in their other Writing Groups! If anyone wants to be added to Online Writing Group, let me know. Finally, I will be starting up Story Hour with the Monhegan School again in September, when the school year begins.

This season we will have had 3 **events**: Chowderfest, our big fundraiser, which occurred August 7, thanks to Eileen Cameron and Michael Brassard for putting it on! The upcoming Frances Vaughan Poetry Jamboree, which will happen on August 20th. And Library Day on September 3. We are still planning Library Day but I can say that, rather than return to previous years, we expect it to be a modest event mainly consisting of the Raffle Drawing. Bob Smith and various members of the board have been selling Raffle Tickets diligently, thank you for your efforts. Thank you also to Benjamin Lussier, who has donated this year's prize painting.

I must now regrettably note our much anticipated **Distinguished Writers Series**, which had to be canceled this year. We had planned to host storyteller John Bear Mitchell for the weekend's

keynote talk, and also debut the first “Monhegan Tales: A Storytelling Jamboree.” I was very disappointed that both events had to fold. However, better luck next time. Thank you to all who helped plan them, especially Laura Ligouri and Laureen Gaston who worked with me on the Monhegan Tales on the Museum’s behalf. Our apologies to all who looked forward to attending. On the brighter side, I am already researching who we might invite for the Series in 2023.

Despite our Distinguished Writers disappointment...I think the summer has gone smoothly and it is a joy to feel more “back to normal.” Our Library continues to be so loved and appreciated by islanders and visitors alike.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Boynton