

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

### ***August 15, 2023***

**Memberships, Circulation and Visitation:** We have 194 members and 139 books in circulation as of this writing. In July we had 836 adult visitors and 172 kids. All these numbers are a little down from last year. At the June meeting, a price increase was introduced for membership: \$30 for family membership (from \$25) and \$20 for single memberships (from \$15). I had this take effect July 1. No one seems to mind. However, since the increase occurred after our Membership Appeal was sent out (early June), most memberships this year were in fact sold for \$15 and \$25.

**New Books:** I am happy to say that we got all book orders in on time this year! Of course, there were inevitably still titles that were invoiced after the close of last fiscal year. (There are always some books that are backordered). We have added 131 new titles to our collection. I've gotten very good feedback about the book selections this year.

**Interlibrary loan** continues to be used and is an invaluable service.

I continue to update our **website** (sometimes I'm a bit behind). I'd like to tackle converting the site to a mobile friendly format, as a patron pointed out to me that it is not in such a format now. I have downloaded a free "widget" on Wordpress to do this, but I need to spend some time learning it. Our **Facebook page** is still active and I will try to post more...there was a time when I devoted more energy to this, and I'd like to give it some attention again as it was well received. I do love posting on our **Instagram**, taking staged photos of my favorite books in the collection and writing blurbs about them. This spring again I did Poetry Challenges on our social media. This time I posted single poems that I enjoy. It would be fun to think of more "challenges." I have an idea for a photo project of islanders with their favorite books (inspired by the Portland Public Library). We'll see if I can get that on Facebook this winter!

Last year I started a **newsletter!** It goes out quarterly, and the summer edition should be in your inboxes in the next week or so. I am having so much fun making this, and it has been well received. I have yet to post each edition on the website and I'd also like to make hard copies (although everything won't translate to paper, as I include links). I plan to do this soon.

This is the year for culling books, and I decided on a new format this time around: turning the former computer room into a **Book Sale Room** and selling books throughout the season as soon as they are culled. I am thrilled to say this has been *very* successful! Marian will have the final numbers of how much we are making. But what matters most to me is that masses of books are LEAVING the Library and I won't have to take dozens of boxes to Goodwill! There are still some remaining but not nearly as many as usual. I'll leave them for sale until I get tired of them and then take them in sometime this fall/winter. I feel this should be the format for the Book Sale going forward. Thank you to Sally Boynton, Ann Hughey, Pam Rollinger and Victoria Cameron for culling, and more may be culled before the season is over.

**Wifi** at the Library was down for several weeks but I'm happy to say a new router and help from Networkmaine fixed the situation. Still, I have signed us up for Broadband and eagerly await it. I will speak further with Networkmaine about what this means for their services with us. It is possible they would subsidize Broadband in some amount.

The Library continues to be a **communal meeting place** all year around. AA gathers twice a week, and we have the Quakers back on Sunday mornings. MISCA, the Assessors and the School Board also made regular use of the space this year.

Corlis is doing Story Hour on the lawn as always. I continue to do Online Writing Group with my core of writers, sending them creative prompts monthly. I hope to do Story Hour again this year... we have a new teacher who I have yet to meet! I am eager to talk to her and see how the Library might fit into her vision for the School. Last winter we did Book Group and read 2 titles and I plan for us to meet this winter as well. Last winter we had a Haunted House and a Cookie Decorating Party. I've been reflecting recently on who the Library serves and when we provide services. Traditionally, we've focused on the brief summer months, planning programming aimed at summer residents and tourists. On the one hand, it's logical: more people are here in the summer, so certainly something like having open hours in summer vs. winter makes sense. Yet, I also don't want to lose sight of the fact that this is our community's Library. The truth is, most islanders are busy working from Memorial Day-Indigenous Peoples' Day, and do not have time to enjoy the Library or Library programming. And in the winter, hardly anyone is providing programming, at time when the island can feel lonely and people are isolated. So I'd like to do what I can and make the Library a fun gathering place for my community. And, I'd like to think beyond this even...what would it be like to bring a speaker to Monhegan in the winter, for instance? Or have someone come out and teach a class? I'll be thinking on this further...

But now, about those summer **events!** We had Chowderfest, our big fundraiser, which occurred August 6. Big thanks to Eileen Cameron and Michael Brassard for putting this on. We will have the Frances Downing Vaughan Memorial Poetry Jamboree on Saturday. And Library Day on September 2. Thank you to Bob Smith for tirelessly selling raffle tickets on the lawn. And thank you to Bruce Kornbluth who donated this year's prize painting. We also have a Poetry Reading with Linda Buckmaster on September 8 and we *may* have a talk by sports writer Barry Svrluga at the end of the month (TBD).

Most of all, I'm happy to say our **Distinguished Writers Series** was another success! The feedback has been wonderful. Morgan Talty was engaging, funny, and insightful. Both the Keynote and the Writer's Talk were well attended. Listening to Morgan both on Saturday night and Sunday morning made me reflect: we are *consistently* putting out very high quality programming with this Series, which is exactly what I hoped for when I started it. New this time is that both events were recorded (audio only, on my phone). I will work on making those recordings available on our website. Now I wish we had thought to do this for our previous speakers (although in some cases their contracts forbade it). Building an archive of this material

would bring a whole new dimension to the Series. I will definitely try going forward. Thanks to Jan Kornbluth, Michael Brassard, Carol and Glenn Burdick, Eileen Cameron, Margot Sullivan and Lisa Jahn-Clough for your invaluable assistance during the event.

I must thank Bill Brown for donating cats made by late artist Lynne Drexler, which I auctioned off in a silent auction online ([32auctions.com](http://32auctions.com)) to benefit the Series. I have never done an auction before but it was easy to figure out and brought in an impressive total. An avenue we should strongly consider turning to in the future. Thank you for your generosity, Bill! I must also note an anonymous donor who made a large contribution to the Series. I am still waiting for invoices but I will send out a comprehensive accounting for the event soon.

It has been another great year at the Library. I am thankful to everyone on the board for helping it all come together.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Boynton