

LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

August 14, 2017

Memberships and Circulation: Right now we have 182 books in circulation and 212 members. Dave Clapp has been writing the Fundraising and Annual Letters and Don Abbott graciously collected donations from the Winter Fundraising Letter while I was off island. This system seems to be working well and I'm grateful to both of them for doing it.

We spoke at the last meeting about ways to increase membership. I noted last year that our decreasing numbers were a trend across island organizations in general. I also agree with a point raised that in the past folks were becoming members simply to give a donation, whereas now with our two fundraising pitches, that is unnecessary. In my opinion it doesn't seem to make too much difference as we are not decreasing in income. Rather it's just distributed differently.

New Books: The following new books have been added to our collection this year:

Fiction: 42

Mystery: 22

Science Fiction: 16

Art: 9

Poetry: 13

Science and Nature: 13

Non Fiction: 20

Biography: 23

Young Adult: 23

Children's: 20

Thank you to our Book Committee, now serving their third year! Not only have they selected these books, but they have also been working to cull their sections for the Book Sale which will be held on August 20th. The Book Committee is made up of: Emma Strother, Sue Hitchcox, Paul Goldsmith, Richard Farrell, Ann Hughey, Beth Van Houten, Kathie Iannicelli, Candis Kerns, Laurie Day and Michael Gourley and headed by Carol Burdick. Michael Gourley again brought many great titles from Houghton Mifflin to donate to us, so extra thanks to him!

Interlibrary loan continues to be heavily used all year around.

Library merchandise is well in hand. This spring I ordered new Tshirts. I expect we will not need to order new merchandise for a couple of years. The Barnacle is stocking our cookbook, thank you! I've noticed Library merchandise has been selling quite slowly over the past few years, with the exception of bookmarks, which are always popular. I'm not sure why this is, though I think it was never a large part of our income.

The **Computer Room** is running well and has been slightly busier this year than last. The laminator continues to be a valuable asset for both us and many island organizations. The desktop computers have started to slow down but are still useable. I will look into replacing one of them next year.

Projects: After about four years, the Digitization Project has been completed! This project was fun to do and I have really enjoyed thoroughly looking over each and every book in our collection. We have some real treasures here. I have not yet sat down to put the card catalogue online but will work further on that this fall and winter. I don't anticipate it being very difficult.

I mentioned a new project of digitizing our archives, beginning with the Monhegan Press. As a first step, I will contact the University of Maine to see if this is a service they offer.

I continue to keep both our **Website and Facebook** up to date. This year I am doing Book Reviews on our blog as a way to both drive traffic to our website and continue a discussion about books throughout the year. So far, most reviews have been written by me, but I am trying to solicit reviews from everyone! Thank you to Kathie Iannicelli, Bill Oram and Kelena Reid for writing one. If you've just read something good, please consider sending me a review! You can see all reviews online at our website (www.monheganlibrary.com) and also in the Library. Send your review to monheganmemoriallibrary@gmail.com.

Donations continue to come in, I believe in similar numbers to last year. A group of kids selling lemonade have been kindly donating a percentage of their profits in thanks for using leftover cups from Chowderfest. Last year, we collected many donations in memory of James Rubin from his family and friends, which were then matched by his wife, Jane Perry. We established the James Rubin Memorial Fund, which underwrote our Distinguished Writers Series this year. I will be speaking with Jane Perry about how she would like the remainder of the Fund to be spent.

Programming continues at the Library this summer with our Writing Group, now in its third year. It's very popular with island workers, with various summer visitors dropping by. I am so happy with the group this year! Last year we made a zine, which you can read in the Library, and we'll make one again. We also may have a group reading toward the end of the season.

My other big program is Story Hour with the Monhegan School. This year we had an average of 6 students, all of whom are so creative and love reading! Teacher Mandy Metrano continues to make good use of our collection, our globe, and ILL. While I was away this winter, Christian Dederer and Jennifer Marr did Story Hour, which was wonderful for both. The kids got to know some new people, and it helped Jennifer and Christian be part of the community as it was their first winter here. Thanks Christian and Jennifer!

Corlis Carroll continues to do Story Hours on the lawn during July and August. This is her 20th year! Story Time is a beloved tradition at the Library that I remember from when I was a kid. I think it is so special how the kids look forward to seeing Corlis ever year, and how she

remembers their names and what they like to read. I would like to extend a special thank you to her for her years of devotion to the Library.

I'd like to point out again that Library is used as a meeting center for many important island organizations and groups. AA, Quakers, MISCA, Monhegan Associates and CBAC (Community Benefits Advisory Committee) all take advantage (year around!) of this space, including using our laptop and internet connection for remote conferencing with Zoom. This is also the official polling location for Monhegan Plantation. I am very happy that the Library is being used for these meetings, and I'd like to encourage its use to facilitate any and all community activities.

Events We have just finished our Second Distinguished Writers Series hosting Camden mystery author Paul Doiron! I'm happy to say it was another success. Completely different but just as much fun as the the first series, this year we kicked it off with a Murder Mystery Party, followed by his Author Talk and Book Signing, and ended with a Question and Answer Session for Writers. What was really special was the Writer's Q & A. Paul generously gave his time and attention to a group of writers and shared information and inspiration not just about craft but about practical questions on publishing as well. Paul was kind, approachable and interesting, an overall great choice for our Second Distinguished Writer. I am so happy that we have been able to continue this series of bringing high quality literary events to Monhegan. A huge thank to Jan for helping me pull everything together. Thanks also to Matt, Michael, Margot and Miki, especially for the use of the Partridge Cottage as the perfect location for the Murder Mystery Party!

Other events this year include poetry readings, Poetry Jamboree, four Book Discussions (the next one will be on a book by Margaret Atwood, lead by Kacie Keele on September 15), the upcoming Book Sale and our fundraising events including a successful Chowder Fest and Library Day (September 2nd).

This spring I partnered with the Island Institute to offer a 2-session Quickbooks Workshop, all completely free, for island residents. We will be doing another class this fall, probably on Wordpress. I'm very excited to be offering adult ed specifically for the year around community, and happening off season, as these are areas in our programming that I think are most crucial! Thank you to the Island Institute. I'm hoping that these classes will be just the starting point to explore more possibilities like this.

As always, it is a honor and a pleasure working at this little Library. I can't wait to see what we'll do in 2018! Thank you to the board for your support, Matt Holtzman and Tara Hire for their help, and Marian Chioffi for her careful bookkeeping. Together we all make the Library a success!

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Boynton