

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

### ***August 18, 2021***

**Memberships and Circulation:** As of this writing, we have 216 members (both individual and family memberships). This is a little below average for us. But we have 216 books in circulation! By contrast, last year at this time we had only 96 books in circulation so you can see from this statistic how busy the Library has been this summer. Another interesting statistic is that our most heavily trafficked day we had 70 people passing through the Library during one day. So things are feeling a little more back to normal.

**New Books:** Unfortunately this year again our new books were and still are severely delayed. From what I hear from other librarians however, we are far from alone in dealing with this issue. I hope that next year we can have our books on the shelves in a prompter manner. We have added 138 books to our collection so far, thank you to the wonderful Book Committee, led by Miki Partridge. Of note are the many children's picture books and young adult books given to us by Michael Gourley, who works for Houghton Mifflin. We so appreciate his generous gift every year, it's like Christmas when he comes! We also received two monetary donations specifically for books: one from Sylvia Scharf and Jane Gillette for books highlighting Asians in the wake of the anti-Asian sentiment rocking the nation. And a more general donation from the Seacoast Mission for increasing our collection.

**Interlibrary loan** continues to be used heavily by patrons, and has been available continuously all this year despite the pandemic. We are very grateful.

Our **Website and Facebook page** are kept up to date, though I admit that lately I have not been posting with the frequency I had hoped. Still, last September I started an **Instagram** for the Library, @monheganmemoriallibrary. It is based off of the popular trend of "bookstagram" (where people take pretty pictures of books) and features books from our collection that are very special to me. And in April, I did a "reading challenge" cross posted to both Facebook and Instagram, where I read only poetry books for the entire month of April in honor of National Poetry Month. I read about a book a day, and posted a short review and my favorite poem(s). It was a lot of fun! I intend to archive this on our website somewhere so it will be available to those who missed it. I'm planning something similar for this winter.

Our **Wifi** is still working well and in high demand, but our **computer room** is not in use. During 2020 we closed it to the public due to COVID concerns...this year it is still closed, but due to the fact that our machines are in a transitional phase, as we replace the old broken ones with new ones. We do have a new printer and a new laminator now, and we should be receiving our new laptop any day now (like the books it was also delayed). Patrons will be able to use this laptop to browse the internet, access email, and print. Librarians will use it as well for administrative tasks. We opted for one laptop rather than new desktop computers because it is portable, and also because it won't take up as much room. We are re-thinking the computer room as a space and

what else it might be used for. Currently, it's working well as an office in both winter and summer that I have offered to people needing a quiet place to work. It has also been the perfect place to store books in preparation for our Book Sale.

Some of the usual **groups** that are in the Library are back this year: AA is meeting here again, hosting a hybrid meeting both in person and on ZOOM using the Meeting Owl, a communal ZOOM tool that is stored here. MISCA and the Assessors have also had meetings here. Quakers are no longer meeting here, but meeting at the Church instead. I must stress that in accordance with our Library rules, everyone must be masked at all times while in the Library building.

This brings us to (for the second year) **the pandemic**. This summer we loosened some restrictions: you can now browse the Library freely, taking books off the shelves and signing your name on cards as usual, as we are not worried about surface transmission. We are also not being as strict on number limits in the Library...I have simply been watching to make sure the Library doesn't get too crowded. I'm finding that people are naturally in and out of here rather quickly so I haven't had any problems. But we are still requiring face masks and have a contact tracing sheet for patrons to sign when they arrive. We are still offering hand sanitizer (thank you Jes Stevens for coordinating and installing).

Also in contrast to last year, we are having in person **events** again! Corlis is back doing Story Hour on the lawn, and I am doing bi-weekly Writing Groups in the Library (the other weeks we do via email). We held the Frances Vaughan Inaugural Poetry Jamboree in July, which was very special as some of Fran's family was able to attend. We had a super fun reading and drawing event with Lee Harper, illustrator of the popular "Turkey Trouble" series. This weekend we will be having our Book Sale. Another author talk, with Ira Baumgarten, is scheduled for later in the month. Large events are all taking place outside and many are being held at the Barnacle Pavilion, thanks to Michael Brassard. Our **Raffle** is back as our sole means of fundraising this year, and while no Library Day event is planned, we will be drawing the winner as usual on Labor Day weekend. I also was able to do Storytimes with the Monhegan School in person this past year, taking place in the School's half indoor/half outdoor classroom. In addition to crafts, this year we did nature walks and science experiments, and we were joined by a group of visiting children who spent the fall on the island. We did choose to again forgo the **Distinguished Writers Series** for 2021. However, we are tentatively in the beginning stages of planning a program for 2022.

It continues to be a strange and stressful time for our world. I am thankful that at the Library we've stayed safe and able to serve the public uninterrupted this year. Thank you to the board for your guidance, thank you to our patrons for complying so cheerfully with our rules, and thank you to our community for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Boynton