



FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

A Different Kind of Summer: Library Begins Phased Reopening

By Scott Candage, Library Director

Welcome to summer at the Vinalhaven Public Library during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is certainly not the summer we anticipated or wanted but it is the one we have. We are happy that we can provide at least some limited library services during a phased reopening, and we know that library experiences this year will not be like those patrons have had in the past.

In June, the library began providing curbside services only, where patrons may request books and DVDs from our collection via e-mail or phone. Requested materials are left outside the building for patrons to pick up. When returned, books and DVDs undergo a quarantine period before being checked back into our circulation system.

Interlibrary Loans will not be available through the library until the fall.

Due to limitations imposed by quarantine requirements, patrons will be allowed to check out up to two new release titles for a period of seven days, with no renewals. This is to make it possible for the maximum number of people to access these materials during this period. New release titles will be posted in The WIND and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VinalhavenPublicLibrary.

As for programming, we are proud to once again participate in the annual Read ME Adult Summer Reading Program co-sponsored by the Maine State Library and the Maine Humanities Council. This year's titles were selected by Maine author Lily King: *Roughhouse Friday* by Jaed Coffin (nonfiction) and *The Vigilance of Stars* by Patricia O'Donnell (fiction). We have four copies of each book available to circulate for a period of seven days. There will be several Zoom Read ME author programs open to the public and these will be posted in The WIND and Facebook when more information becomes available. Thank you all for being patient with us as we attempt to provide the best library services possible as we learn to operate within a constantly changing environment.



Assistant Librarian Linda Whittington putting out books ready for curbside pickup. And of course, she's smiling behind that mask!

I participate in weekly Zoom meetings with Maine State Library authorities, other library directors, and public health officials. These meetings are critical to understanding the most up-to-date facts and figures that inform the decisions we all make as library professionals to walk the fine line of balancing access to library materials and working to safeguard the health of our patrons and communities. I'm sure you join me in hoping that next summer will seem more like those in the past. Be safe, be well, and be kind to each other.

Vinalhaven Public Library Hours Curbside service only, Tuesday to Saturday 9-5



Conversation with a Reader:
**Robb Warren, 4th & 5th Grade Teacher,
Vinalhaven School**

By Susan Dempster

Robb and I have known each other for about twenty years. When I became the Vinalhaven School Librarian, Robb was the middle school English teacher. We both loved reading and books so we had many conversations about what we were reading, what his students were reading, and what books the library should purchase to support his curriculum and engage our students. Together we attended the Keene State College Children's Literature Festival, in Keene, New Hampshire, every year for at least seventeen years to learn about new books, meet authors, and network with other teachers and librarians.

The first book Robb remembers being read to him was probably a Dick and Jane book that many of us of a certain age remember. He read *The Hardy Boys*, *Nancy Drew*, *Trixie Belden*, and books by *Liesel Moak Skorpen*. His mother, *Lillian*, read to him when he was young, and he credits her with getting him hooked on reading as she gave him some *Mary Higgins Clark* books and a copy of *Stephen King's The Stand* in his teen years. He feels that *King* changed his attitude toward reading and opened the door to other types of books.

Robb enjoys reading mystery novels, historical fiction, and lots of historical nonfiction and biographies. He reads a lot of articles online and then will research the topic further. He enjoys reading books over e-books as he likes the satisfaction of turning paper pages and keeping track of how much he has read and how much he has left to read. *Stephen King* is his favorite author, but I was surprised to learn that he doesn't enjoy horror or thrillers.

When I asked about other favorite authors, he talked about *Doris Kearns Goodwin* and how he would love to meet her and discuss books with her. He mentioned the many children's book authors we met through the literature festival in Keene: *Tomie dePaola*, *Trina Schart Hyman*, *Kate DiCamillo*, *Lois Lowry* and many others. *Victoria Chess* sticks out in his mind as a memorable author that we both got a kick out of having dinner with!

I wondered if, over the years, his choice of books for his students' required reading had changed any. When he was a middle school teacher one of his favorites was *Lois Lowry's The Giver*, with the main character, *Jonas*, being his all-time favorite book character. He teaches grades 4 and 5 now, and mentioned *The Bridge to Terabithia*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Matilda*, and *The BFG* as some of the books he uses.

I asked if he had ever read a self-published book, as there are quite a few out there. He read *Vinalhaven ABC's*, by *Holly Walker*, a former student of his. We talked about books he didn't enjoy (*The House of Seven Gables* and *David Copperfield*), secret pleasure books (*Mary Higgins Clark* mysteries), and books that were made into movies that he enjoyed (*The Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* series and *To Build a Fire*, from a *Jack London* short story). He said he had two that he goes back to almost every year. *A Year in Provence* by *Peter Mayle* is a beautifully written book that he loves, and *First You Have to Row a Little Boat: Reflections on Life and Living* by *Richard Bode*.

Finally, I asked him what he was reading now. He replied, *The Stand* by *Stephen King*!

Summer Book Sale!

This was the July 4th that wasn't ... no fireworks, no parade, no yummy pies, and no book sale! Well, at least we can help with that last one. Check out our clearance books. All books with a white label are 25 cents each! You go home with great bargains and we clear the way for newly donated books.

Follow us on Facebook!

It's where you'll find the latest library information: hours, curbside pick up practices, new books, and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/VinalhavenPublicLibrary>



Second Hand Prose Reopens

Have you ever dreamed of having time to just sit and read and catch up on all the good books you never got around to? When the realities of COVID-19 set in, and so many of us were sequestered at home due to stay-at-home orders, we finally had that time. And of course the great irony is that at that same moment, libraries and bookstores across the nation were closing. Locked doors separated avid readers from all those books that could help them through such an isolating time.

When the library closed in mid-March, Second Hand Prose quickly followed suit. Suddenly, new words and phrases entered our daily conversations: social distancing, flatten the curve, essential service, quarantine, pandemic. Businesses tried to figure out how to reopen while keeping possible exposure to the virus at the bare minimum. And the bookstore was no different in this.

Second Hand Prose is run by a dedicated staff of volunteers and book lovers, all members of the Friends of the Library, and several of them were eager to reopen. Judging from comments and inquiries from townspeople, they weren't alone. Apparently, there are many of us that consider bookstores (and libraries) to be an essential service!

Many, many emails went back and forth between FOL board members, trying to come up with protocols that take into consideration an influx of donated books, the exchange of cash, the necessary tactile experience of shopping for books, and a mostly-older and therefore potentially vulnerable volunteer staff.

To that end, we built a plexiglass barrier, like many you've seen in banks and stores. We're venting the narrow space to an open back area. We've removed chairs and won't be putting out our cart of new arrivals. We're allowing two customers or one same-household family group at a time. We're requiring everyone to use hand sanitizer and to wear a mask. To reduce exchange between staff and customers, we aren't giving cash change but are instead offering credit slips.

We're grateful customers have been understanding, often "rounding up" and giving the change as a donation to FOL. We accept checks, but cannot accept debit or credit cards due to the fees involved.

We are handling book donations differently. Like the library, all incoming books need to be quarantined for seven days. Due to our small space, we don't have much storage, so need to strictly limit the number of books we accept each day to 10 books per person or household/day, brought to us during our open hours. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

Please do drop by and say hello. Perhaps buy a book or two or ten. Carve out some time this summer to luxuriate in a good book. We get new ones all the time!

Second Hand Prose Open Monday-Saturday from 10 until 2

We have many books available from Vinalhaven Historical Society. While we encourage you to visit the museum and support them through their gift shop, we do offer several popular titles at Second Hand Prose.



Each year FOL offers a grant to the Vinalhaven School Library to supplement their budget. This spring, thanks to a bequest and very generous gifts from some long-time donors, FOL was able to provide an additional \$2,000 grant to School Librarian Susie Pitts. She chose to buy book bundles for every student in Pre-K through Grade 5. After a long springtime of remote learning and virtual classrooms, Susie thought actual print books were a great option for student summer reading. Safe curbside pickup happened at the end of the school year.

Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library

PO Box 223
Vinalhaven ME 04863



Color drawing by Heather White • Line drawing by Rhoda Boughton

Are You a Friend? Membership in Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library helps our library provide those extra things. We count on YOU. Think of us in your year-end giving or in establishing a bequest. THANK YOU!

If you see “**” printed on the newsletter label, this means your membership has lapsed. We’d love to have you renew.**

Officers and Committee Chairs

Chair

Colleen Conlan

Vice Chair

Christine Yannielli

Treasurer

Larry Brady

Assistant Treasurer

Pam Wetherbee

Recording Secretary

Marjorie Smith

Corresponding Secretary

Wendy Koelbl

Ex Officio

Scott Candage, Library Director

Linda Whittington, Assistant Librarian

Membership

Pam Wetherbee

Programs

Scott Candage

Second-Hand Prose

Colleen Conlan

Newsletter Editor

Colleen Conlan

Newsletter Design

Craig O'Donnell

Be A Friend!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

Individual \$10

Family \$25

Patron \$50

Sponsor \$100

Checks should be made payable to: Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library and, along with this form, sent to FOL, P.O. Box 223, Vinalhaven, ME 04863

THANKS!

FOL is a 501(c)3 organization and gifts to it are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.