



FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018/2019

SOCK.tion!

The Monday Night Knitters have been meeting and making in the library for most of the 30+ years they've been gathering. They wanted to show their appreciation for the longtime use of this community space, something a little bigger than the raffles they'd held in the past. Hence, SOCK.tion! The name is a mashup of "socks" (hand-knit, of course) and "auction."



The knitters set up a "yarn bomb" on poles and signposts around the library to promote SOCK.tion.

They put out the word, and the hand knits poured in. Not just socks, but shawls, mittens, baby sweaters, and hats. And not just knitting, but other fiber works like crochet,

weaving, sewing, netting, rug hooking, and sashiko stitching were offered for auction. The Monday Night knitters were busy, and other makers in the community, both year-round and seasonal, got in the spirit and donated their handwork, too.

To promote SOCK.tion, and to add to the handmade vibe, there was a little "yarn-bombing" around the library. A yarn bomb is a form of street art, where community structures like signs and telephone poles are covered with bright hand knit fabric. Often this is done furtively, at night, but the knitters chose a sunny afternoon to do their bombing. Even the famous Pequot Coke Bottle of Liberty wore a hand knit hula skirt!

A last minute threat of rain had them hustling to set up in the Union Church vestry, which turned out to be ideal. Sue and Josef L'Africain were the engaging auctioneer and model. Fresh mock-tails and sock-shaped cookies were served. The crowd was lively and generous, and by the end of the evening, they had raised over \$4,200!

SOCK.tion was such a success, the knitters plan to make it a biennial event.

The Great Island Read

You've heard of the Great American Read on PBS? We are about to embark on The Great Island Read! Patrons will submit their top ten favorite books of fiction. From those suggestions, Scott will pull several themes for discussion groups based on topics and genres that emerge. At the end we'll vote on our very favorite book, and there will even be prizes. Stay tuned for the results!

Second Hand Prose

The bookstore has gift certificates available for holiday gifts or any time. Redeem these for gently used books and videos, new Vinalhaven Historical Society books, puzzles, artwork, and note cards. It's a gift that gives twice!

HOURS:

Tue-Sat, 10-3 through December

Thu-Sat, 10-1 January-March

NEWS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

It's been quite a year for the library and for the Friends!

First, Scott and patrons alike are delighted to have Linda back in the library after recuperating from her hospitalization. Everyone welcomes her capable ways and good cheer! Many thanks go to Susie Pitts, who stepped up and ably filled in during a busy summer season.

Scott and Aviva Rahmani led "Island Place," a book group focused on the environmental challenges facing our island community, explored through the lens of the humanities.

In the six-week series, everyone read books or excerpted works from such authors as Elizabeth Kolbert (*The Sixth Extinction*), Naomi Klein (*This Changes Everything*) and Bill McKibben (*The End of Nature*). The program was very well received and was co-sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council.

The Cassatt String Quartet performed as part of the Seal Bay Festival. This is the third year they have played at the library, and we can look forward to their return next year.

The Teddy Bear Picnic is always such fun! Georgie Davis, who has read for many Story Times in summers past, hosts this for the children each year. She spreads blankets on the back terrace, serves homemade lemonade and teddy bear shaped cookies, and reads a selection of books about—you guessed it—teddy bears! Everyone brings their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed toy to join in the fun. Georgie enjoys it at least as much as the children, saying she feels like Queen for a Day!

Heritage: A large part of summer programming centered on Scandinavian settlement in Maine and on Vinalhaven, offered in cooperation with Vinalhaven Historical Society. Many from Finland, Norway, and Sweden came to Maine, including Vinalhaven, to work in the thriving granite quarries. The landscape and access to the sea felt like "home" to them. Steve Gifford spoke on "Finnish Coastal Maine Settlement" and then led a walking tour of Scandinavian homes in the community, including an old ancestral home of our own librarian, Scott Candage, through his mother's maternal side. The old Tuomi place on Harbor Hill is now owned by Peter Codella.

A few weeks later Charles Heino (who incidentally once was our school superintendent in the 1970s) presented a program about Finnish sauna culture. Families and friends would bask companionably in the heat of their wood-fired sauna, then either roll in the snow or take a cold plunge in the nearby ocean. The practice is cleansing and invigorating, not to mention social.

Looking forward: Library programming will focus on a chosen theme. Next year's theme will be "Sharing Our Stories." Already planned for spring, the Chewonki Foundation will bring their Traveling Natural History Program—and three live owls!— to the library for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This will be generously sponsored by the Vinalhaven Lions, with our thanks! Later on, Phil and Paddy Noble are scheduled to offer a program of song and story. If you have an idea for an event or program that explores the theme of sharing stories, please speak to Scott.

Looking to the following year, the theme will be "Maine at 200," to coincide with our state's bicentennial. Lots to look forward to—we hope you will be part of it!

WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF THE VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY?

The Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library (FOL) is a non-profit group that provides support for the Library. Through dues, gifts, fundraising, and special projects, we support programming, resources, and services for Library patrons: children, young adults and adults.

- We buy books, magazines, media and meet special equipment needs.
- We pay all the costs of Inter-Library Loan services.
- We promote public awareness of the Library and stimulate use of its resources and services.
 - We publish a newsletter twice a year.
 - We assist the Library Staff where needed.
 - As volunteers we staff our used bookstore on Main Street, called Second Hand Prose.
 - We work at keeping our Library looking great, including the outside plantings.
 - We place funds in an Endowment for the Vinalhaven Public Library.

A READER'S EPIPHANY

Walking into a library is an experience. You might have a mission: to lay your hands on that one particular book by a favorite author, or to log in on a computer and check your email, or to find a DVD to bring home for family movie night. Other times, your visit might be more of a meander, wandering through the stacks to see what looks interesting, or tucking into the reading room to flip through the many magazines and periodicals available.

Patricia Crossman, a former Library Trustee, and one of the founding mothers of Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library, shared her own childhood experience in the library in an Observer column from *The Wind*, in 2005:

As I sat in the Vinalhaven Public Library last Wednesday evening for the July trustees meeting, I was reminded of a shockingly significant moment about seventy years ago, when I entered the building to replenish my reading supply.

I paused inside the door, that summer afternoon, and looked around me. Riches! An abundance of treasures beyond price! Fairy tales, adventures, explorations, Pompeii and the great volcano that buried its inhabitants alive, Robinson Crusoe amazed at Friday's footprints, Marmee comforting and caring for her "Little Women!"

Worlds within worlds; so much waiting to be revealed! I felt a great swell of affection for every faded cover and torn binding. Joy and gratitude for the library and all it contained filled my heart. At that moment when I felt most blest, a sudden horror seized me. Until that moment of epiphany, I had only the slightest awareness of my own mortality.

Now, surrounded by books, I clearly understood...I would never live long enough to read them all! I could read night and day for the rest of my life, and still there would be words on those packed shelves that I would never see! My great-grandmother saw the change in me when I returned home. I tried to explain what I had experienced inside the precious library. No words seemed adequate to describe it. In the writer's world such a moment is known as a "come to realize." But at age eleven, I had yet to learn that.

But a cuddle with Grammy Roberts in her rocking chair, a molasses cookie, and cold milk went a long way toward restoring my equilibrium.

I now thoroughly understand that I may never see the Nile or the Ganges, the Alps or the Andes, and I, for sure, am not going to read all the books in our library!

BACKPACKS ON LOAN

In 2018 the library added five backpacks to the children's circulation collection. Each backpack has a different theme filled with books, educational and theme related items, and a small item for the patron to keep. They can be checked out for 14 days and encourage not only reading, but projects or adventures for kids to do with an adult.

The backpack program is based on a model presented at a Maine Librarians Conference Scott Candage attended. The themes can be changed once material is worn. The five themes are Fairies, Seashore, Robots, Margaret Wise Brown and Birds.

Come by the library and "check it out."



This Margaret Wise Brown backpack is one of five themed backpacks. It contains several books, activity sheets, and a small surprise for the young patron to keep.

Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library

PO Box 223
Vinalhaven ME 04863



Front page color drawing by Heather White

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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.**

Be A Friend!

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Individual \$10 Family \$25 Patron \$50 Sponsor \$100

Checks should be made payable to: Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library and sent, along with this form, 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.