



FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

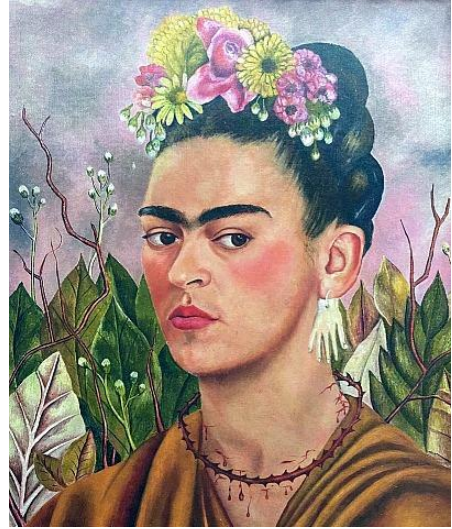
Summer 2023

The Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library supports the library as a vital educational and cultural asset to the community by promoting public awareness and use of the library’s resources, and to supplement the town budget by funding materials, services, and programs.

Saturday Story Time

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”
– Emilie Buchwald, children’s author

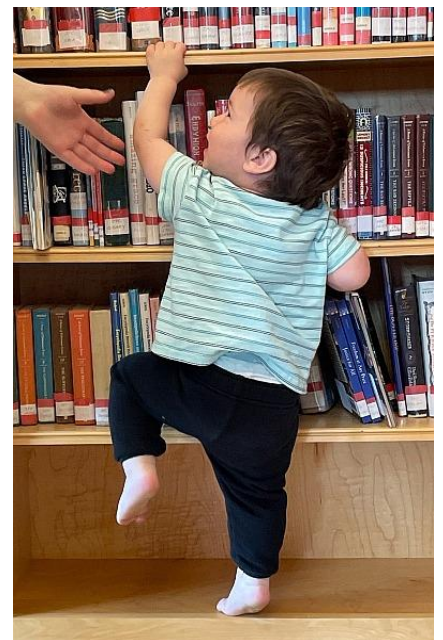
We might expand that parental lap to include any caring adults and teens who share their time and love of reading with a circle of children eagerly listening and chiming in. VPL will offer Saturday Story Time throughout the summer, and we’d love to have guest speakers join in the fun! Story Time happens at 10 am in the Sara Bonnett Stein Children’s Room and lasts about 30 minutes. You can choose any books from the library shelves, and if you’d like to include singing, circle games, or simple crafts, feel free (though not required). Sign up for your reading slot at the library.



A generous patron donated this stunning book, *The Complete Paintings of Frida Kahlo*, to support the library. From respected art publisher Taschen, it contains rare photos, diary pages, and letters. Get tickets at Second Hand Prose or at the Friends table in the parking lot on July 4th. The winning name will be drawn on that day.



“A public library is the most democratic thing in the world. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants.”
– Doris Lessing



Conversation with a Reader:

Marion Tolman, Community Member

By Susan Dempster

I visited Marion Tolman in her apartment a few weeks ago to talk about books and reading. We did not follow my usual interview questions but did have a fun conversation about books.

Like me, Marion enjoys mysteries and loves reading many of the different mystery series. It was fun talking with her about Louise Penny's books. We both love her Inspector Gamache series! She told me that she enjoys Anne Perry and James Patterson and then mentioned the Inspector Lynley books by Elizabeth George. George was my introduction to the police/mystery genre that I so love now. Marion is in the middle of George's *What Came Before He Shot Her*, which explores young characters who were the center of a violent crime. It's an interesting and disturbing book and Marion spoke of how she is finding it almost too upsetting to read because it is too realistic.

I asked her about her early reading, and she couldn't remember anyone reading to her as a child but is pretty sure her mother and grandmother must have because she has always enjoyed reading. Marion recalled a story her mother shared with her from when she was very young. It seems that she had disappeared for a bit and her parents looked all over the house for her. When they finally found her, she was curled up with a book and was wearing her grandmother's glasses! She doesn't remember any titles from books she read as a young person but did mention *The Bobbsey Twins*. She most likely remembers reading them with her own daughter. She has always read for pleasure and always read to her children and grandchildren. Being a busy wife and mother, she didn't read much on her own when she was raising her family as there just wasn't time to sit and read.

The Friends of the Library will be pleased to hear that nowadays Marion gets most of her books at Second Hand Prose. As an elderly person, walking up the hill to the library or driving and parking in the small lot behind it is not as easy as it once was. She stops in to the bookstore when she is downtown and usually finds a hardcover book or two that she will read. When she is done with her books, she gives them to someone else (very often my mother-in-law, who passes them on to my daughter) or gives them back to the bookstore.

On a personal note, the morning I visited Marion I had been at the library with the toddlers I read to and play with once a week. A fun hour ended with a little girl taking a book out of my bag and "reading" to the adults.



Marion Tolman

Then I stopped at the school library to return a book that I had borrowed for an installation on the Story Trail that will be enjoyed by many families and school children. Leaving Marion's apartment, I was struck with a feeling of gratitude that I find myself in this wonderful community and in the middle of people of all ages that are connected by books and reading!

E-Newsletter

If you prefer to receive our newsletter via email, or if you'd like the e-version in addition to the mailed copy, let us know: FriendsofVHLibrary@gmail.com.

We thank you for your continued support and ask that you renew your membership either by returning your payment in the mail or online: FriendsofVHLibrary.org/membership.



Summer Programs

June 15, 6 pm: Vinalhaven Author **A. M. Watson**, *Infants of the Brush: A Chimney Sweep's Story*

June 21, 5 pm: Identifying Frauds and Scams (Protect yourself online)

July 1, Jane Healey, author of *Goodnight from Paris*

July 12, 10 am: **Jacky Davis and David Soman**, creators of *The LadyBug Girl* series

July 18, Abigail Trafford, author of *High Time*

July 30, noon-3:30, 7 pm: Cassatt String Quartet, open rehearsal at the library

August 16, Janna Malamud Smith, author of *When the Island Had Fish*

August 30, Daniel Hecht, author of *The Body Below*



Ongoing Programs

Mondays, 7 pm: Monday Night Knitters

First Tuesday, 6 pm: Book-to-Movie Club

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 5 pm: Game Time for teen and adults

Thursdays, 3 pm: LEGO Club for grades 3-6

Saturdays, 10 am: Story Time

Field Trip!

If you're heading to the mainland you might want to explore some of what the mid-coast has to offer. Whether you're interested in the best of Maine art; acres of stunningly landscaped themed gardens; railroad history, structures, and technology; or natural history, art and science geared especially to children, there are opportunities for family fun a short drive, or even a quick walk, from the ferry terminal in Rockland. VPL offers day passes you can borrow for free admission, just like you would borrow a book. Contact [the librarian](#) for more information.

[Farnsworth Art Museum](#), Rockland

[Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#), Boothbay

[Coastal Children's Museum](#), Rockland

[Railway Village Museum](#), Boothbay

Oh, the happy chaos that's been happening each week during Toddler Time, led by Sue Dempster! What started out as Story Time morphed into Toddler Time when younger siblings and babies started coming.

Sue and the children sing songs, play with homemade playdoh, do simple crafts, play with the library's puzzles and toys, and, YES, share storybooks together. The Children's Room was filled with babies, toddlers, moms, aunties, and grandmothers, and lots of fun and laughter. Toddler Time will be on hiatus for the summer, but Story Time continues on Saturdays.



LEGO Club has been wildly popular since beginning over the winter. Children in grades 3-6 arrive after school, pile their jackets and backpacks in a corner, and dive right in. So many kids come, in fact, that two smaller groups meet on alternate weeks, so everyone has space for their creations. Jen collected donated LEGOs and the Friends purchased more. LEGO Club will continue through the summer. Check VinalhavenPublicLibrary.org for the current schedule.



Second Hand Prose

“Second-hand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.” – Virginia Woolf



Have you ever wanted to work at a bookstore? Second Hand Prose is our downstreet bookshop where we sell gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games. We have a committed crew of volunteer workers, and we'd love to have a few more. Regular shift workers and substitutes tend the shop, price and shelve books, tidy bookshelves, and generally make themselves helpful. They are surrounded by books and may even get the chance to catch up on their own reading between customers. They also get to interact with book lovers from near and far that come in to browse and pick up a few bargains. If you'd like to be a part of our team or help with our annual July 4 Book Sale, email us at FriendsofVHLibrary@gmail.com. Join us at Second Hand Prose, where all the books are donated*, all the staff are volunteers, and all the profits benefit Vinalhaven Public Library.

*We also carry new books published by Vinalhaven Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER AT THE BOOKSTORE: We're always looking for help at Second Hand Prose. We have regular shifts and lots of room for subs during the busy summertime.

From the Library Director

The library has been working toward becoming a center for our community. Stories, games, playtime and LEGOs have brought lots of life to the library in the last few months.

Overwhelming support from the Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library and generous patrons have allowed us to build a LEGO collection and add games for use during Game Time. It's not unusual to have children and their families enjoying the books, toys, and puzzles in the children's area on any given day. Digital Skills classes and author visits are scheduled for the summer months. We have an ongoing Book-to-Movie Club and look forward to adding more programs as they come up.

We are gearing up for strategic planning and will be looking for community input on what people would like to see at the library. With the help of the Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library and the support of the town we hope to continue to add to and adjust our programs to support the needs of the community.

See you at the library, or VinalhavenPublicLibrary.org.

Are You a Friend?

As you know, the Vinalhaven Public Library is experiencing a wonderful rejuvenation, with our new librarian, Jen Wadleigh, ably leading the way. Toddler and Story Time, Kindermusik, Game Time, LEGO Club, Movie Club, and Monday Knitters meet regularly and many other programs, including author talks and digital learning, are in the works. The library really is a place for the community to learn, play, and gather!

The Friends of the Library (FOL) are proud to support these and other library events, and it's your continued membership that has made this possible. Renewing your membership and paying annual dues enables the Friends to provide the financial support that helps to keep our library such a wonderful community resource year after year.

In addition to annual dues, the Friends need volunteers! There are many ways to be involved, from program and event planning to sorting books at Secondhand Prose. We're looking for future FOL board members to help lead our efforts, or if you prefer to work in the background, we have opportunities such as helping with our newsletter or the bookstore.

We encourage you to attend the next monthly meeting to see what FOL is all about. Be a part of the planning, implementation, and support of FOL sponsored events, programs, and projects. Email FriendsofVHLibrary@gmail.com to attend our next meeting via Zoom or in person, or for more information regarding opportunities to volunteer.

We thank you for your continued support and ask that you renew your membership either online (FriendsofVHLibrary.org/membership) or by returning your membership payment in the mail.



Plant for the Pollinators!

The library is once again offering seeds especially selected to grow and attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators to your garden.

Pick up a packet the next time you borrow a book or DVD. We'd love to see photos of your garden humming with activity! We'll share them in a future newsletter. Send pics to FriendsofVHLibrary@gmail.com.

Officers and Committee Chairs

Chair: Colleen Conlan
Vice Chair: Christine Yannielli
Treasurer: Pam Wetherbee
Assistant Treasurer: Johanna Day
Recording Secretary: Marjorie Smith
Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Koelbl
Second Hand Prose: Colleen Conlan
Newsletter Editor: Colleen Conlan
Newsletter Design: Craig O'Donnell
Programs: Jen Wadleigh
Membership: Joanne Brodt and Allan Hayes

Ex Officio:
Jen Wadleigh, Library Director
Linda Whittington, Assistant Librarian

Reach us at FriendsofVHLibrary@gmail.com or visit FriendsofVHLibrary.org to send a message, make a donation or membership payment, or find out about library event

Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library

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Color drawing by Heather White • Line drawing by Rhoda Boughton

