



FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021

From the Library Director

By Scott Candage

As we approach the beginning of a new year, it's an appropriate time to look back over what has been happening at the Library since the last newsletter and to look ahead to what projects are on the horizon. All of these endeavors are supported through your generous donations to the Friends of the Library.

The most significant accomplishment this fall is the Library's new website. Designed by Rebecca Chambers of Dagmar & Posy, the site is a wonderful contribution to our online presence and to our expanding commitment to community engagement. New release books and DVDs are featured and patrons may use the site to request holds be placed on titles (or call us at 207.863.4401). Patrons are also encouraged to sign up for e-mail notices of events and programs. This will allow Library staff to make sure we have your current contact information. Also, please take a moment to read the short bios of staff and board of trustees members and get to know a bit more about those of us who are here to serve the Library community. You can find us at VinalhavenPublicLibrary.org.

Another exciting feature this fall is the return of children's story time to the Library, led by Sue Dempster. Story time is held each Wednesday morning from 9:00 – 9:30. We have a dedicated group of children (up to age 4), parents, and caregivers who faithfully attend this program featuring read-alouds, songs, and movement.

Beginning in January 2022, the Library will undertake its first major strategic plan. This process charts a path forward to provide improved services and community engagement. There will be opportunities for stakeholder involvement as we move through the strategic planning process. The plan will set specific achievable goals that allow us to better serve the island through materials, programs, and outreach. Your input is truly valued so please help us make this a Library that fully serves this entire community. Thank you.



Sue and crew.

Story Time Resumes!

If you pop into the library on a Wednesday morning, you're likely to hear story and song, clapping and rhymes, and general childhood joy. Story Time started up again this fall, and the young audience couldn't be happier!

Sue Dempster – former school librarian, former preschool teacher, and all-around child magnet – leads the fun. Originally planned for 2-4-year-olds, Sue adjusted the program when several younger siblings also attended. She reads stories, yes, but also uses a felt board for interactive play, teaches finger games and songs, and has the children doing active play to help get the giggles out before they settle in for another story. What a pleasure it is to have the joyful sounds of children in the library again! We welcome these young patrons and future readers!

Art!

Vinalhaven Public Library now has a Library Membership for the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland. Patrons can borrow up to four passes to enter the museum for free! See Scott or Linda for availability.

Conversation with a Reader:

Lacey Robinson

By Susan Dempster

Many of you know Lacey as the friendly and calm cashier at Carver's Harbor Market. I've known her for a long time, but we've never talked books before. I didn't realize what a reader and lover of books she was until a friend mentioned it to me. Lacey has always appeared reserved, and I wondered if she might be hesitant to be interviewed, but she didn't think twice about it. We set up a time to talk and I learned that we both like a lot of the same books and both use reading to relax.

I asked Lacey what she remembers about being read to as a child. She said that her mother was a reader and read to her often. She had a stack of the Little Golden Books that were read to her repeatedly. She remembers one of her early teachers, either Alicia Watts or Pam Alley, reading *Newberry: The Life & Times of a Maine Clam*. She loved it and was thrilled when she got to read it to her boys but a bit disappointed that they didn't love it the way she did.

The first books that got her reading more were the Sweet Valley High series and Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. I can attest to the popularity of both from my time as a school librarian – especially the Scary Stories books! There's something about reading horror stories that really excites some kids and leads them to other horror stories. Lacey has moved on from the horror genre, but she does love a good mystery. She reads books by authors such as Karin Slaughter and Paul Doiron. She also liked Sue Grafton's Alphabet series. I agreed that they are fun to read. We talked about our enjoyment of murder mysteries and exchanged the names of a few titles and authors.

I learned we had more reading interests in common. Her favorite book is *Gone With the Wind*. Lacey rereads it every three or four years. I remember reading it a few times when I was a teenager. It was a bit of a coming-of-age story in my household. My mother loved it and passed it on to her daughters and we all read it and loved it.

We also share a love of the Tide Trilogy series by Elizabeth Ogilvie. These books are set on a fictional island from about the 1930s-1950s, but we know it is based on Criehaven, and lobstering plays into the story in a big way. She said she "would have liked to live back then when life seemed much simpler."



Lacey Robinson

As a regular visitor to our Town Library, Lacey loves browsing the collection and talking with Scott and Linda about books. If she doesn't find a book that draws her in, she has quite a selection of books at home that she will reread. I asked her if there was a classic book that she had to read but didn't like. She thought *A Tale of Two Cities* was too boring and dry for her. Scott happened to be her English teacher that year and she teases him about making her read it!

She enjoys reading physical books rather than e-books and reads three to four a month. She often reads while she's eating and her books can get a bit messy, so she couldn't imagine what an e-reader would look like when she was done with it!

Presently, Lacey is reading a Mike Bowditch mystery (by Paul Doiron) set in Maine near the Canadian border. She plans on finishing this series before moving on to a new one.

"You'll always find me with a book in my hands. I'm not much of a TV watcher – I find books more interesting."

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This young reader found the perfect little reading nook at Second Hand Prose while exploring the children's section. The bookstore will remain open through the winter.

Check the Friends website for days and hours --

FriendsOfVHLibrary.org

About the Friends

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 by funding materials, services, and programs to supplement the town budget.

- We purchase books, magazines, media and meet special equipment needs, providing assistance when identified by the Library staff.
- We pay for all the costs of Inter-Library Loan services.
- We promote public awareness of the Library and stimulate use of its resources and services including the publication of 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.

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, your membership has lapsed. We'd love to have you renew your membership.

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