



FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

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.

Meet Jen, Our New Library Director

You may already know Jen Wadleigh, as she has been involved with Vinalhaven Public Library for many years. She worked at the library as an interim assistant in 2016 after the passing of our librarian, Valerie Morton. Soon after, she joined the VPL Board of Trustees, serving as chair for much of that time. You could find her volunteering in many capacities, from setting up new printers to shelving books to raking the leaves on the grounds in the fall. All of which is to say, Jen has a long and proven commitment to the library and helping it to run smoothly.

She grew up right down the street, and her mother would take her and her sister to the library every week to choose another pile of books to bring home to read. Later she went to Dartmouth College, majoring in Psychology. After returning to the island, she married and raised two girls, now adults, with her husband, Troy. She later took courses toward a BA in Library Science, and needs only a couple of credits to complete that degree.

Among other things, she has hauled lobster, worked on a garden crew, raised sheep, and grown lots of vegetables. Lately she has helped daughter Virginia run a popular food truck, Midnight Kitchen. She makes socks, dolls and soft figures, and catnip mice through her business, Old Crank Knits, selling her creations at craft markets on the island. She still loves to garden, sings with the newly reformed Granite Chicks, and spends time with her one-year-old granddaughter, Poppy.

Looking forward, Jen hopes to attract more people, especially young people, to the library. To that end, she's starting up a Saturday morning story time, to go along with the Wednesday Toddler Time sessions that Sue Dempster does. She will work with high school student volunteers, as well as others from the community, to have a revolving cast of guest readers to share stories with our youngest patrons.

She wants to offer LEGO afternoons for 8- to 12-year-olds, and game night for teens and adults. She's joined the

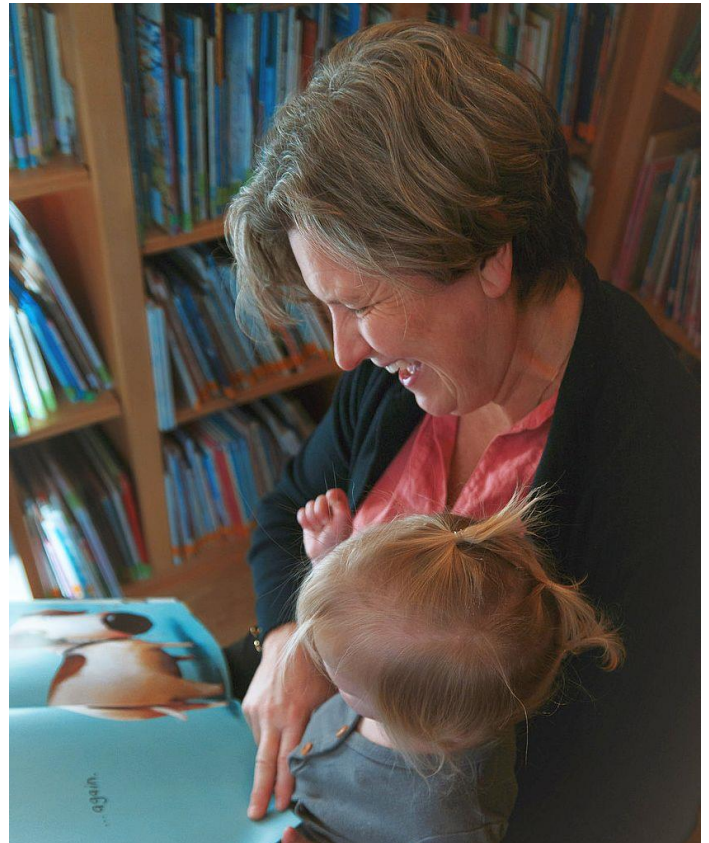
newly formed Storytelling Book Club, where participants are learning the art of personal storytelling, à la *The Moth*. Sounds like she's hit the ground running!

Jen sees our library as "a community center. It's such a nice base; it needs to be used," and she asks, "Who is underserved here? What can we offer them?"

She welcomes the partnership of the Trustees and the Friends of the Library, brainstorming programming ideas together to make things happen.

We all welcome Jen, with her creative thinking and can-do spirit, as our new library director!

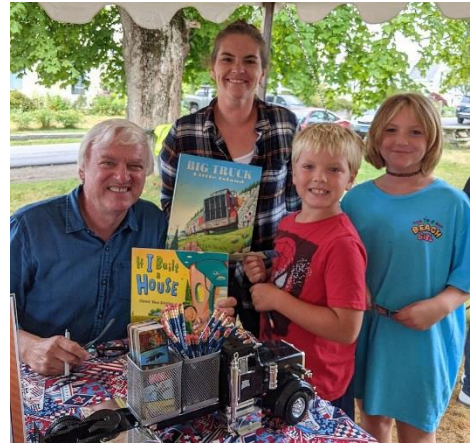
See you at the library, or VinalhavenPublicLibrary.org.



Library Director Jen Wadleigh reads to granddaughter Poppy

Island Readers & Writers bring Chris Van Dusen and *Big Truck Little Island* to Vinalhaven!

Around 100 people, big and little, sat under the tent across from the library and listened to author and illustrator Chris Van Dusen read a few of his favorite books and talk about how he gets his ideas for stories and illustrations. Chris was on Vinalhaven to share his newest book, *Big Truck Little Island*, which is based on a true Vinalhaven story. What fun everyone had listening to him read and share his books!



Thanks to the Vinalhaven Lions Club for donating a tent, which we really needed that damp day. Thanks also to Bill Trevaskis and Juanca Jiminez for the audio system. To Island Readers & Writers, we thank you for bringing so many amazing authors and illustrators to our island! And thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this event so successful and fun: the Library Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Library, Vinalhaven Reads and last, but not least, Linda Whittington who stepped in at the last minute to help make this all possible!

Kindermusik is a program for young children and babies that teaches them movement and learning skills through music education. Lovingly led by Samantha Thompson, the group has met in many places around town, and has now happily landed in the Sara Stein Children's Room. Singing, playing instruments and games, hearing stories, all pure glee!



VPL hosted several engaging speakers on summer evenings. Poet Jan Schreiber read from his books *Bay Leaves* and *Peccadilloes* and shared new work with a group of ardent poetry lovers. Artist Aviva Rahmani spoke about her recent Ecoart projects, author Caleb Mason (pen name Don Trowden) read excerpts from his new book *Young Again* and spoke about his publishing firm Publerati, and Thomas Urquhart discussed his recent book *Up For Grabs: Timber Pirates, Lumber Barons, and the Battles over Maine's Public Lands*.

On a glorious fall morning, children big and small gathered in the parking lot to paint Halloween pumpkins. Some were traditional, some were free-form, all were amazing, and such fun for everyone!



How to be a Friend

There are lots of ways to get involved and help Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library.



JOIN: If you receive this newsletter by mail, you're already a member. Thank you! (If you see *** on the label, it means it's time to renew.) For others, a \$10 membership entitles you to a vote at any meeting you attend. Of course, we welcome any other donations.

HELP WITH OUR NEWSLETTER: Write about something pertinent to the library, or help with prepping the newsletter for mailing, usually in June and December.

COME TO MEETINGS: We welcome all comers! Do you have some good ideas to share and want to help get them going? We want to hear from you. We meet monthly, on the third Thursday, generally March-November, and our meetings rarely go over an hour. We've been meeting via Zoom, so you can sit in and see what we're all about before becoming involved. Email FriendsofVHLibrary@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Left: Interim Assistant Katie Brodt checks out books with young patron Ernie Lyman

HELP WITH PROGRAMS: This can be anything from helping to set up for events to offering a program of your own. We want VPL to reflect the talents and interests of the community and would love your help with making this happen.

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. Other bookstore jobs include helping at the annual Fourth of July Book Sale, pricing and/or shelving books, or taking rejected books to the recycling center.

Conversation with a Reader:

Steve Rosen, Lobsterman

By Susan Dempster

Steve was one of the first people I met when I moved to the island so many years ago. He and my husband grew up together and they have remained friends through the years. With his wife, Alice, we have traveled together, had many, many dinners with each other, and became a “pod” during the pandemic! So, I was excited to sit and talk with Steve about books and his reading habits.

I always start my interviews with questions about childhood reading, but Steve told me he did not have memories of being read to or reading on his own as a boy. He talked about reading in high school and enjoying Jack London’s books: *White Fang*, *The Call of the Wild*, and his short stories. I was not surprised to hear that he liked these books as I knew he read a lot of books about Ernest Shackleton and other explorers of the Antarctic. Steve likes reading about survival in the elements and people working together to survive.

Steve joined the Navy right out of high school and says that is where he started reading on a regular basis. He told me that there were times when he was so bored, he had to find something to do. He started to read and found that he enjoyed it. I asked Steve if there was one book that made him fall in love with reading and he told me about *War* by Gwynne Dyer. It traces the history of warfare from ancient times to the present and he found it fascinating.

Steve is a member of the men’s book club here that started about 15 years ago. Each member suggests a book to read, they come to a consensus, and when they meet, they discuss the book and share a meal. It has been a big part of Steve’s life and he enjoys it, even if he doesn’t always enjoy the books they read. This month’s book is *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton. Steve is listening to it as he works in the shop.

He prefers non-fiction over fiction but does read fiction too. Some of the novels we discussed were the Tony Hillerman novels featuring Navajo traditions and mysteries, *The Lewis Trilogy* by Peter May, some by Stephen King (not the horror books!) and *Altered Carbon* by Richard K. Morgan.

Some non-fiction books Steve mentioned were *Three Cups of Tea*, *The Prince of the Marshes*, and *The*



Steve Rosen

Places in Between. Next on Steve’s list? *Racing the Clock: Running Across a Lifetime* by Bernd Heinrich.

Heather Cox Richardson is an author that Steve would like to meet someday. He enjoys her Facebook posts on history and politics and has read a book of hers. He has met George Mitchell through the book club and went on to name a handful of local authors he knows including Janann Sherman and Phil Crossman.

Steve reads about two books a month in the winter, but in the summer? He says he is lucky to be able to read one! For some people, summer means kicking back, relaxing, and reading. But for Steve, and many of us on Vinalhaven, summer brings busy schedules and hard work. Luckily, winter is coming so Steve will be able to do a lot more reading in the near future!

Find the Library on Facebook:
facebook.com/VinalhavenPublicLibrary

Check the Friends website for days and hours at Second Hand Prose --FriendsOfVHLibrary.org

Friends' Support of the Library in 2022

The annual budget for Friends of the Library is funded by dues payments from members, income from Second Hand Prose, and donations. During 2022, as COVID has receded, we've been able to do more for the library and the community with our funds.

With a renewed emphasis on engaging the youngest members of our community, we've brightened up the children's area at the library with a cheerful new rug. This sets the stage for weekly Story Times for little ones, with new children's books and learning toys provided by the Friends.

We've created themed backpacks for kids from babies through age 8 to borrow; they contain library books plus some activities and items that kids can keep. Copies of the books on the popular Vinalhaven Land Trust Story Trail are available to borrow, both at the library and the Land Trust resource room.

FOL covers the cost of special events, such as the very popular pumpkin painting party this fall, and the Halloween decorations and treats.

Would you like to visit the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden or the Farnsworth Museum for free? Passes are available from the librarian, courtesy of the Friends. In May, seed packets for pollinator and butterfly-friendly plants were given to any library patrons who wanted to brighten up their yards.

FOL helps to keep the library attractive, inside and out; we paid for a deep cleaning this summer, and purchased a commercial vacuum cleaner for routine maintenance. FOL pays for regular landscaping upkeep (mulching, weeding, leaf cleanup, pruning), purchased and planted two attractive new shrubs in the front, and created and maintained the lovely potted arrangements at both entrances. The new patio table, chairs, and umbrella have been very popular with patrons.

Our largest budget item each year is a grant to the Vinalhaven School. School Librarian Taylor Leach is making decisions now on the best use of this year's \$2,500 grant.

FOL is excited to be working closely with Jen Wadleigh, our new Library Director. We have purchased 15 magazine subscriptions that she selected for the Friends Reading Room, as well as funding the cost of joining the American Library Association and the Maine Library Association. And we are looking forward to supporting more programs in the coming year for library patrons and townspeople of all ages.

Farewell to a Friend

We say goodbye to Larry Brady, who passed away this fall after health complications. He was involved with Friends of the Library for many years and was treasurer for the past three years.

Larry was a longtime volunteer at Second Hand Prose, where you might find him reading a fat book between shelving donations and helping shoppers. We're grateful for all his time and contributions, and will miss him.

Thank You!

The Friends thank Linda Whittington, our beloved longtime assistant librarian, for all her work this summer and fall after our former library director's departure. Without missing a beat, Linda kept the library humming along through the busiest part of the year. During this time, she worked with Rebecca Chambers, the VPL webmaster, to get the E-Books program up and running. This is something the library and the Friends have long hoped to offer, and Linda helped make that a reality.

Lifelong summer resident Katie Brodt was hired as the interim assistant to help Linda get through the busy summer season and into the fall. The Friends are grateful for all her help, whether boxing up hundreds of donated books to send to Second Hand Prose, helping to curate a large donation of art books, creating interesting themed book displays, cataloging and covering new books for the collection, or decorating the library for Halloween, Katie did it all with good cheer. Thank you, Katie!

And many thanks to Craig O'Donnell, our newsletter designer. A longtime seasonal resident, Craig is the one who takes our varied articles and photos and creates the pleasing newsletter you are now reading.

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Membership: Pam Wetherbee

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

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

Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library

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Color drawing by Heather White • Line drawing by Rhoda Boughton

