



# NEWSLETTER

*FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY*

*Winter 2016/2017*



*photo by Jennifer Wadleigh*

## MEET SCOTT CANDAGE, OUR NEW LIBRARIAN

*by Pat L'Herrou*

When one hears Scott Candage answer questions about his role as librarian at the Vinalhaven Public Library, it makes perfect sense that he was the ideal candidate for this job. He is a passionate, creative, and ambitious person excited by taking on this position. In our conversation, he talked about previous jobs such as teaching and then working for several years as the library media specialist at the Vinalhaven School. It becomes clear that it's also his other interests in life that make him so ideal for this work.

Scott studied anthropology in undergraduate work at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, a course of study that gives him a broader understanding of who we humans have been and are. Scott received his Master's degree from Goddard College where he pursued research in cultural memory, place studies and interdisciplinary arts. His thesis project, "Hard Stone, Hard Choices" combined artistry, creativity, his interest in

people and place, with his intellectual curiosity. You can see his Master's thesis project in this link:

<https://worldsofchange.com/2012/08/07/hard-stone-hard-choices-memory-community-story-with-scott-candage>

His job as a school librarian gave him important experience in the mechanics of librarianship. He needed to assess and follow through with ordering the books and materials for the varied needs of students and teachers. In addition he worked within a budget, with school policies, and with class curricula.

In the public library, he has the freedom to determine more broadly what the community needs for library resources and to devise a plan for acquiring those resources. Of course, there are also challenges in this role. He still must work within a budget, and he needs to meet the challenge of fulfilling the many aspects of his work in the time available. He has been developing new projects, including reducing duplication of buying the same books for the town library that the school library owns or intends to purchase. Coordinating this as much as possible would save money for both institutions.

It is clear that Scott loves his work here as witnessed by his many plans and projects underway. We hope that he will continue to add his ideas to the functioning of the library to the benefit and pleasure of its patrons.

Vinalhaven is the place he wants to live and work. His favorite place on the island is the Pleasant River area, which is close to his family home. Scott credits his parents and family and his love for Vinalhaven with developing his interests in work and life. He grew up with books all around the home and with his family always reading. His curiosity was not only fed by reading but also by studying and enjoying the natural world. He developed an interest in Native Americans and artifacts found on the island. Through graduate study and teaching, he gained self-confidence, ease with public speaking, and the ability to communicate effectively with others. This is clearly present here in the library as he interacts with patrons. He is both an interesting and easy person with

whom to talk, and he encourages people to come to him with suggestions for any of the collections, for programming, and with any other questions.

His favorite books are an eclectic mix, and include a childhood interest in Tintin books, literary fiction writer Colum McCann, filmmaker and artist Derek Jarman, novelist Virginia Woolf, and fantasist and Maine resident Elizabeth Hand (and many more). He recently enjoyed reading the novel *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara.

In addition to his many work projects, the island itself and reading, Scott has a love of cooking, which makes use of his creative talents and provides recreation. He enjoys traveling and would welcome more opportunities to do so. If you do not already know Scott, stop in at the library to meet him – you’ll be glad you did!

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*photo by Pam Wetherbee*

## **OUR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, LINDA WHITTINGTON**

*by Pat L’Herrou*

Linda Whittington is the fresh breeze you experience when, as a library patron, you walk in. Each patron is greeted personally by name. “Oh, [person’s name], how is your wife doing; is she feeling better?” To the next person who comes in, “We have that book you asked for right here,” as she goes to collect it. She greets a couple of children who come in with an adult, “We have some new children’s books back there; I’ll show you.”

Meanwhile, she checks books out; she shows the volunteers who help out with shelving returned books what to do; she is giving the date stamp to a child who is helping to check out a book. Another responsibility is ordering Interlibrary Loans, which are requested by many patrons.

On a rainy Saturday morning when I was at the library, the computer system was not working, so Linda had to create a list of the patrons’ names as they checked out, along with the barcode numbers, to make sure they got into the computer when it functioned again. There were a number of children and a few parents there for the Saturday morning story time, along with adults who volunteer to read stories. In the rest of the library there were adults checking out books and others at the tables using the WiFi. No matter how many patrons were there, as each person left, she said a personal good-bye and these conversations often go back and forth.

Coming into this library can often feel as if you have walked back into a time and space of old. Linda’s library is like your friend’s back yard. The inviting activities and the connections made are perhaps not what those from elsewhere experience in their often much larger hometown libraries. Linda is part of the uniqueness of this place

and she wants you to feel at home....so she treats you as her friend and her sincerity and genuine interest in you are clear.

She wants to know how you and yours are, and anything else that you want to share with her. And, most of all, she wants to be helpful. She clearly enjoys the children who come in and welcomes the opportunities to offer them suggestions for books or to find the book that they seek. When no other duty calls, she will sit to read a story with a child or two. When she mentions the Saturday morning children's book readings, she adds, "I think the grownups are enjoying the books more than the kids!"

Last year, after Librarian Valerie Morton passed away, Linda was the anchor for the library and its patrons. To ensure the library continued to function, Linda took over a number of vital tasks which had not previously been hers. Scott Candage, the new Librarian, gives Linda credit for helping him "very much" in his new job.

Linda has spent her life here. After high school, Linda attended the University of Maine at Farmington. When she returned home, she took a job at the local bank and worked there for thirty-four years, becoming familiar with most of the town residents. Almost 10 years ago she began her job at the library.

Much of her family, and extended family, is here on the island, and family get-togethers are a favorite activity. Her husband, Danny Ames, also from Vinalhaven, is a busy lobsterman and works with his siblings during the winter months as part of the Ames Brothers Forestry Service. When she isn't working, Linda enjoys spending time with her mother. During the summer and fall, they especially like having lunch on the Ames Wharf at City Point, enjoying the beauty and activity of Old Harbor and the Reach.

Linda loves to read books and is fond of both fiction and non-fiction. Her mother, also an avid reader, brought her to this library as a little girl and she has enjoyed books ever since. Linda's love of books is something that she enjoys passing on to library patrons, young and old.

## **YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN FOL HELPED MAKE THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS POSSIBLE IN 2016**

- \*July 6<sup>th</sup> - Architect Susie Rodriguez spoke about her design of the new Veterans Memorial to be installed in the park adjacent to Camden National Bank.
- \*July 9<sup>th</sup> - Story Time Teddy Bear Picnic with Georgie Davis.
- \*July 9<sup>th</sup> - Author Lloyd Ferris discussed his new book, *The Amethyst Stone*.
- \*July 16<sup>th</sup> - Seal Bay Festival fellowship composers' presentations and performance by the Cassatt String Quartet.
- \*July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Author and historian Janann Sherman spoke about her book *Walking on Air: The Aerial Adventures of Phoebe Omlie*.
- \*August 5<sup>th</sup> - Poetry readings by Jan Schreiber and Rhina Espaillat.
- \*August 12<sup>th</sup> - An evening of poetry and prose with William Ayot.
- \*August 19<sup>th</sup> - Margaret Wise Brown Read-Aloud (in partnership with the Vinalhaven Land Trust).
- \*September 9<sup>th</sup> - Izza Drury spoke about her work in the Calais Jungle, an unofficial refugee camp in northern France.
- \*October 7<sup>th</sup> - Author and historian Janann Sherman presented a program about her book, *No Place for a Woman: A Life of Senator Margaret Chase Smith*.
- \*October 20<sup>th</sup> - Author and Illustrator Melissa Sweet spoke about her new book, *Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White* (in partnership with Island Readers & Writers and Vinalhaven Reads).

**Look for an FOL bulletin in the spring with details of the programs coming up in 2017!**

**Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library**  
**P.O. Box 223**  
**Vinalhaven, ME 04863**  
*www.vinalhavenpubliclibrary.org*



*Line drawings by Rhoda Boughton*

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THANKS!

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Ex Officio

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Linda Whittington, Assistant Librarian

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