



FRIENDS of the VINALHAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

From the Library Director

By Scott R. Candage

By the time you read this, the Vinalhaven Public Library should be open again. The past year has been a challenging experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, we've attempted to provide the best services possible within the guiding framework of federal, state, local, and Maine State Library protocols. We hope you have been pleased with our efforts and we look forward to having patrons back in the building.

With the reopening, there are new protocols and policies in place to protect patrons and staff (see article later in this issue). For those not yet ready to enter the building, we will continue to provide curbside services.

We are proud to participate in the annual ReadME Adult Summer Reading Program co-sponsored by the Maine State Library and the Maine Humanities Council. This year's titles were selected by Maine author Gerry Boyle: *Mainly Power* by Matt Cost (fiction) and *Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains* by Kerri Arsenault (nonfiction). The official programming begins June 4 on a special episode of Maine Calling on Maine Public Radio, followed by author talks in July and August, via Zoom. We will share more information on the Library Facebook page. We have four copies of each book to circulate. Please contact us if you would like a copy reserved. Great titles this year!

This summer, the Library staff, the Friends of the Library, and the Vinalhaven Public Library Board of Trustees will undertake a library card membership drive. We hope to provide as many individuals as possible with library cards giving access to our full range of materials and services. More information will be coming.

Finally, the Library will begin the creation of a formal



strategic plan this fall. This plan will guide the direction of the Library and help make sure we are responding to community needs, addressing changes in professional practices and technology, and providing the best possible services for our community. There will be many opportunities for participation, so please help us continue to grow as an integral part of our island community by engaging in this critical process.

Again – Welcome back to the Vinalhaven Public Library! Let's make this a safe and successful summer by following protocols, being mindful of other patrons, and by being patient with Library staff as we work our way through our reopening process. Be well.

Conversation with a Reader: Kyle Doughty, Lobsterman

By Susan Dempster

My goal for this column is to reach all kinds of readers from our town. After interviewing a teacher and a businessperson, I set my sights on a someone from the lobstering community. Luckily, I have someone very close to me who is a lobsterman and a reader!

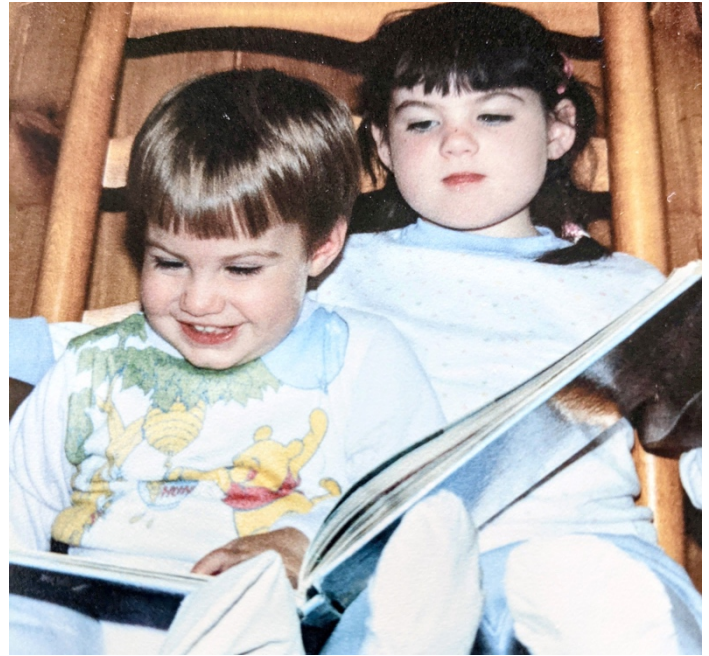
I was interested in learning what made my son, Kyle Doughty, the voracious reader he is. I knew that he loves fantasy and sci/fi novels and that he also reads plenty of nonfiction. But I didn't know about other books he reads and authors he follows. I asked him if there was one book in particular that he remembered being read to him as a child. He didn't hesitate and said *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett. He loved the illustrations and the story about baby dragons. Kyle also mentioned *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* as another wonderful fantasy series. He said he remembers both his father and me taking turns reading to him, as well as both of his grandmothers.

When I asked him about what books he remembers reading from school, he admitted that he didn't read many of the assigned books but read a lot on his own. He mentioned enjoying *Moby Dick*, *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, and *White Fang*, but somehow was able to skip other classics or assigned reading (sorry English teachers - I tried!)

He went through a time where he read many books about vampires. He read *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and enjoyed these books and the movies that were based on them.

Right now, he is reading *Origin* by Dan Brown and *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu. Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series tops his favorites list, and he also mentioned Tom Clancy novels, *The Outpost* by Jake Tapper, *First Blood* by David Morrell and *The Theory of Everything* by Stephen Hawking.

He also enjoys military history and sports and music memoirs. When I asked him if there was a book that had changed his life, he said that I had given him *The Four*



Kyle and Michaela Doughty, 1988

Agreements years back and that helped to change his perspective on the world, but he mostly likes to read fiction to escape from real world issues.

Kyle would like to meet author Mark Lawrence. Lawrence writes mostly fantasy novels and speculative history. I was surprised when Kyle told me that a popular fantasy book that he now dislikes is *Harry Potter*. He admitted he enjoyed the series when he read them but was so disappointed by author J.K. Rowling's political stance on the LBGTQ community that he lost respect for her and her books.

Kyle reads mostly on his Kindle; he loves to take his "library" everywhere he goes so he is never without a book to read. He also enjoys audio books and says that counts as reading too—it does! He chooses books based on their storyline, and finds books based on recommendations from Amazon and suggestions from friends. Kyle says he has read non-stop since he can remember and loves re-reading books like *The Wheel of Time* series and *The Broken Empire* series.

Interestingly, he told me that he has never had a deckhand that read much or enjoyed talking about books. "As someone who grew up around reading, I became a reader. I am a fisherman, and I love to read. It's a great escape from the reality of the world."

Welcome Back, and Let's Keep Safe

- Patrons must enter the library via the rear door and exit via the front door.
- Upon entering the building, all patrons must use the touchless hand sanitizer.
- Masks are to be worn by all individuals in the building regardless of vaccination status.
- Please return all materials to either of our drop boxes and *not* at the circulation desk.
- Returned items must undergo a 24-hour quarantine period.
- Public-access computer use will be limited to one PC and one Mac.
- The restroom will be closed to the public until further notice. Please use the restroom provided by the Town of Vinalhaven at the Old Fire Hall in the municipal parking lot.
- No public use of library phones.
- Seating will be limited within the building, but patrons are free to use WiFi on the rear patio. Please do not block the path of patrons entering or leaving the library.
- Interlibrary loan services should resume by late June.
- While the library has typically been a social setting for visiting and “catching up,” please understand that this year will be a bit different. Please visit outdoors.
- Realize that this is a fluid process and protocols are subject to change based on Maine State Library guidelines and directives via the Maine CDC and the local EOC.
- We will continue to provide curbside services upon request.
- If you have any questions, concerns, or want current information regarding library protocols, please contact us at: 207.863.4401 or vpl@vhaven.lib.me.us

Thank you, in advance, for your patience as we reopen and feel our way through what has been (and continues to be) a challenging process. Be kind to each other and to your librarians. We look forward to seeing you again!

Library Hours

Tue & Thu, 1 – 5 pm
Wed & Fri, 9 – 5 pm
Saturday, 9 – 4 pm

Second Hand Prose Hours

Mon-Sat, 10 – 4

Nature Writing Book Group

The two-year theme for the library's book group and any accompanying programs is “Nature Writing.” We will discuss selected books in a guided, yet informal, atmosphere. Meetings will take place monthly and will often be held outside at various venues, depending on weather conditions. Other sessions will be held in the library building with appropriate protocols.

The first six books (in alphabetical order by author):

Writing Wild: Women Poets, Ramblers, and Mavericks Who Shape How We See the Natural World
(Kathryn Aalto)

Walking the Wrack Line: On Tidal Shifts and What Remains (Barbara Hurd)

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants
(Robin Wall Kimmerer)

Nature Cure (Richard Mabey)

Vesper Flights (Helen Macdonald)

The Wild Places (Robert Macfarlane)

If you'd like to be part of the book group, please contact Scott. Looking forward to your participation and an enjoyable and informative two years of discussions about the natural world.

Friends Website

FriendsofVHPublicLibrary.org

VPL on Facebook

facebook.com/VinalhavenPublicLibrary

Calling All Quilters

The Vinalhaven Public Library is proud to announce the generous donation by Jeannette Lasansky of a body of materials related to quilt history and design, including a number of books she authored. We hope members of the community will use this collection as a resource for exploring quilting as a creative practice and researching its historical dimensions. We are grateful to her for her donation. Please come in and view these books.

Friends of the Vinalhaven Public Library

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Color drawing by Heather White • Line drawing by Rhoda Boughton

