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## Report from the Chair

### 2014 - Another great year for our Library!

I know you will swell with pride as you read the several reports of all that our Library has accomplished in 2014. We are all happy to report that the Library maintained its important place along Main Street, even in the face of the construction work repairing and replacing the water and sewer infrastructure. We are most happy to see that statistics in all categories - circulation, attendance at programs, online downloads, etc. - were up this past year.

A Programs Task Force comprised of Circulation Manager Mary Ann Mead, and trustees Mike Hays, Anna Demeo, Marilyn Mays and Geoff Young, brought several new offerings to our already-exhaustive programs. One was Great Decisions, an established program of the Foreign Policy Association, presenting discussions about current affairs topics, such as Defense Technology, Israel and the U.S., Turkey's Challenges, Islamic Awakening, Energy Independence, Food and Climate, China's Foreign Policy and U.S. Trade Policy. The success of this effort lead to its second offering in 2015. Library programs took us from the Himalayas, through many new books and poems and into the lives and works of the many talented artists who live and

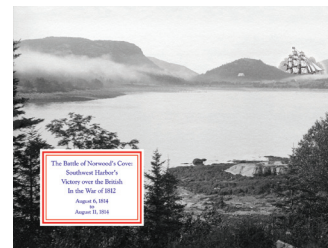


**A. Hudson visited the Library for a discussion on Himalayan sherpas.**

work around us. The Library was proud to debut local film maker Peter Logue's documentary, "In Search of the White Rose." In 2015, the Task Force will evaluate the need to establish a Program Committee.

The Nominating and Governance Committee recommended approval of a new Internet Acceptable Use Policy which the Board approved in turn. Across the year, the committee continues to recruit new Board members and recommend the membership of the Executive Committee.

We celebrated the depth and richness of our photographic collection in August, on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Norwood Cove and the British blockade. Charlotte and Charles Morrill, Meredith Hutchins, and trustee emeritus Ralph Stanley continue to create an invaluable research resource that is



**Our new book, *The Battle of Norwood's Cove: Southwest Harbor's Victory over the British in the War of 1812 - August 6, 1814 to August 11, 1814.* This**

**year marked the 200th anniversary of this battle that took place in SWH with many local folks taking up arms to help defend.**

putting our Library on the map for its in-depth assistance to individuals, authors, publishers and film-makers.

You will read in the reports the growing commitment to collaboration. The Library works with our Literacy Partners each year as we develop plans for our annual Summer Story Camp. This year, 70 readers from ages 5 to 12 participated. Weekly themes were: Race for the Sky! Stars and Planets; If I Built a ... Your Own Invention; Move It! Sports and Fitness Around the World; and, Heroes: Real & Imagined. The young readers created their own books to memorialize their thoughts and reactions.

Growing from a convening meeting at the Library, At Home Southwest was formed to address issues of the older population in our community - isolation, depression, access to services, socialization. The Library is proud to have helped launch this important initiative.

All the Library's achievements are directly attributable to our outstanding staff, led by Director Candy Emlen and Assistant Director Kate McMullin, our many volunteers and friends, our board and our generous supporters. As we often say, "We couldn't do it without you."

I recently saw the poem written by Katherine Higgins when the new Library addition was celebrated 14 years ago, entitled "Miracle on Main Street." I share with you the joy and satisfaction in all the Library brings to the quality of our lives in our town - for the children and families, the school, our colleague non-profits, and our business community. We are proud and happy to be one of the Miracles on Main Street in 2014.

Charles V. Stanhope  
Chair, Southwest Harbor Public Library

## LIBRARY STAFF

Candy Emlen  
*Director*

Kate Pickup-McMullin  
*Assistant Director*

Susan Plimpton  
*Children's Librarian*

Mary Anne Mead  
*Circulation Manager*

Carolyn Dyer  
*Administrative &  
Library Assistant*

Lisa Murray  
*Library Assistant*

Vesta Kowalski  
*Library Assistant*

Amanda Crafts  
*Library Assistant*

Cathy Willey  
*Substitute Library  
Assistant*

Allen Stephenson  
*Library Assistant*

## OUR MISSION

To be the place where people of all ages and backgrounds come to improve literacy, explore new ideas and pursue lifelong learning interests.



2014 New Trustees  
Linda Hayward, Left  
Carol Nelson, Center  
Marilyn Mays, Right

# Report from the Director

As you probably know by now, for the fourth year in a row, your little local library has been awarded a five-star rating from the prestigious *Library Journal*. Only about 1% of public libraries in the country receive this honor. It is your support and patronage that make it possible for the library to receive this recognition. The *Library Journal* examines statistics such as circulation numbers, the quality, quantity and attendance of programs, library visits, Internet use, and fiscal responsibility. Thank you for keeping us busy and relevant!

One area that has grown tremendously for the Library over the year is our digital offerings. Our downloadable audio and eBooks statistics continue to increase. These items can be borrowed for up to two weeks. We also offer downloadable music, which you can keep forever. With your Library borrowing card, you can download up to three songs each week for free - in a few weeks you have created your own album.

We have gone way beyond lending books and Kindles. You can now borrow the Library's telescope, iPads and laptops. In fact, our digital and technology offerings have become so popular we offer regular tech and computer help four days a week. And, if you are not sure which technology you want to jump into, we sponsor a Technology Petting Zoo several a times a year. The Zoo is loaned from the Maine State Library and comes with an assortment of devices. It is set up near our Circulation Desk where everyone is invited to play with the equipment. The Zoo is constantly being updated with the newest gadgets.



Mirjana Filipovic

We have become an *international* library. With this new world of digitization, the Library serves readers around the world. This summer, a young seasonal worker from Serbia named Mirjana

got her Library card. While here, she used our WiFi service, borrowed our laptop, and used the resources in MARVEL! (an online database containing thousands of magazines, newspapers, and reference books free to anyone holding a Maine library card) to continue her work towards her PhD, which involved translating music for her village. When it was time for her to go home, she was thrilled to learn that she could still be a patron and continue to use the Library's digital resources from so far away.

But, digitization is not everything; it is community that matters most, from the youngest to the oldest.

A new outreach opportunity for the Library this year for the older members of our community is *At Home Southwest Harbor*, a non-profit, member-based, volunteer-support program that provides older residents with essential services, empowering them to continue to live independently in their homes as they age.

For younger members of our community, the Library continues to offer a variety of programs for babies, for home-schooled children, for Harbor House's day care and after-school programs, for the students at Pemetic Elementary School, which includes the library services we continue to provide to the school. Susan Plimpton, Children's Librarian, is constantly promoting early literacy through education for families and fun, innovative programs such as our free literacy initiative, Summer Story Camp.

For everyone, all library services are free and available to all equally. Thank you for continuing to make the Southwest Harbor Public Library a vital and integral part of our community.

Candy Emlen, Director



Library patrons exploring the Technology Petting Zoo



The Library's technology offerings even include a telescope!



**In 2014, the Library received a grant to sponsor the Maine at Work program.**



**Our wonderful staff members (left to right): Kate Pickup-McMullin, Lisa Murray, Amanda Crafts, Susan Plimpton, Carolyn Dyer, Mary Anne Mead, Vesta Kowalski and Candy Emlen.**



**Library Director Candy Emlen was featured several times on WABI TV during Banned Book Week.**



## Report from the Treasurer

The Southwest Harbor Public Library has ended 2014 with a strong balance sheet and a solid financial position. Some highlights include:

- The Year End Balance Sheet included Total Assets of \$3,987,980, an increase of \$215,882 since the end of 2013.
- The final Profit and Loss statement for the Operating Budget shows a total income of \$377,714 and expenses of \$348,827 resulting in an operating surplus of \$28,887 which will be used to increase our operating and building maintenance reserves.
- The annual appeal for this year was very successful, with our supporters contributing \$147,098, almost \$34,000 more than budgeted.

The proposed 2015 budget includes \$356,900, \$18,900 greater than the \$338,000 budgeted in 2014.

- Proposed increased income includes \$8,500 from Annual Appeal (based on our successes in 2013 and 2014) and \$12,400 for Endowment withdrawals (based on 4% of our increased average Endowment balance).
- Proposed increased expenses include a 3% across the board staff pay raise; increased health insurance costs; enhanced book, media, and program budgets; adequate funds for snow removal; and an increase in the budgeted transfer to the Building Reserve.

As the newly established Treasurer, I would like to thank the members of the Finance and Investment Committee for their work, patience with my learning curve, and commitment to the Library.

Jim Vekasi, Treasurer

## Report from the Endowment Committee

At year's end, the endowment stood at \$2,958,549, compared to \$2,765,000 at the end of 2013. This growth occurred even after the 4% draw for the annual operations budget, which is our ongoing policy and practice. Growth occurred primarily from market gains in the Vanguard Wellington Fund, and, as always, with the addition of all memorial gifts to the library during the year.

A major achievement in 2014 was the transfer of custody of the fund to the library board, eliminating the "middle man" between the Wellington Admiral Fund and the library and saving \$8000 a year in bank charges. Geoff Young and Jim Vekasi deserve enormous credit for spending many hours working through the transfer process and ensuring that appropriate internal safeguards are in place for our custodial activities.

Another enjoyable sunset cruise recognition event for Top Shelf members and major donors was held in August. Guests enjoyed refreshments as we cruised to Baker Island and heard selections from Charles Eliot's book about John Gilley read by former state senator Dennis Damon. Guests also received a copy of this historic biography. (Top Shelf is the name we have given to the group of patrons who have alerted us that they have included the library in their estate plan.)

The committee has formulated a budget for 2015 that includes a brochure and mailing to raise new contributions to the endowment and also a change of venue for our recognition event. We are cognizant of our responsibility to protect and grow this critical library resource now and into the future.

The Endowment Committee  
Patsy Fogarty and Pete Obbard, co-chairs  
Mike Hays, Geoff Young and Kendra McCrate



**Former State Senator Dennis Damon**



**Top Shelf Cruise Participants**

# Report from the Development Committee

Thank you for your extraordinary help to blast past our appeal goal of \$113,500! Contributions since the November 4th mailing were over \$72,000 and our general contributions for the year totaled \$146,590 surpassing our goal by almost \$34,000. The Executive Committee voted to invest most of the surplus into maintenance for our 7,630 square-foot building, now 15 years aged and seriously underfunded since our last addition.

The fundraising events during 2014 included sales of Quieside Discount Cards, a sold-out Spring Progressive Dinner, a very rainy Spring Plant Sale, the front lawn Used Book Kiosk, a delightful Let's Book Walk-a-thon, the month-long Celebration of Art Auction, plus the Paperback, Giant and Holiday Books Sales. Thank you to all the volunteers who do such important work helping to accomplish these events! We could not do it without you! Overall, events as a whole brought in \$41,152 (budget \$42,500) slightly less than last year. It is predicted that sales from used books will decrease since many of the most active readers now purchase their new books in digital form, so they have no physical books to donate for re-sale. If anyone has found a legal and easy way to re-sell digital books, we are open to ideas!

Plans for 2015 include all our usual events. The Mother's Day and Plant Sales will both take place in May. Donations of nice items for the Mother's Day Sale and plant divisions/seedlings for the Plant Sale are most welcome.

The Spring Dinner will take place at the Claremont Hotel this year on June 25th, a throwback to the good old days and history that ties the Library and the Claremont Hotel. We are planning a small silent auction of service and educational experiences during cocktail hour. Stay tuned for details and date confirmation!

Purchase a 2015 Quieside Discount Card for discounts at local businesses. These are available at the Circulation Desk, cost \$50 each and are valid each time you visit participating merchants throughout 2015. One hundred percent of the sales of these cards benefit the Library and the card is good all year long.

The Celebration of Art month-long Silent Auction will open on July 26th, and both the Paperback and Giant Book Sales will take place during July and August. Our annual Let's Book Walk-a-thon will take place on October 4. Please plan to walk or sponsor a walker or team of walkers! We want both your body and your mind to stay healthy!

Pepper Cwik, Development Chair



Shoppers enjoying the annual Plant Sale



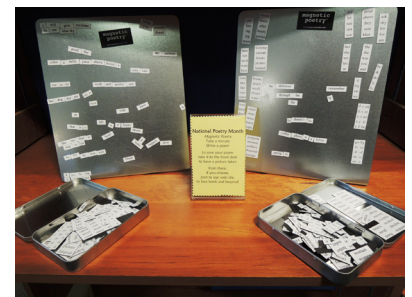
Maine Libraries on Parade  
Photo by Laurie Koster



Staff member Kate Pickup-McMullin was the subject in George Soules' "Girl Reading a Book" Vermeer, a piece from the Library's 2014 Celebration of Art Auction



Monthly art shows feature the talents of many local artists. Hooked rug *Summer Day* by Nancy Weingarten was part of the Hook and I Show.



Poetry Month - Magnetic Poetry and "Put a Poem in Your Pocket"



# Report from the Buildings & Grounds Committee

After 14 years since the major enlargement and renovation of the Library occurred, building repair and replacement of worn out items are increasing markedly. 2014 began with the Work Room floor carpet being partly replaced with vinyl flooring and the Holmes Room carpet being replaced. A ceiling fan was installed in the Holmes Room to warm the room in winter and cool it in summer. Also, a shade was installed in the sky light. The Circulation Desk area circular fluorescent ceiling lights were replaced with high efficiency LED lights, the first part of a \$20,000 multi-year project to replace all lighting to save energy and money with a several-year pay-back period.

An Energy Audit was conducted with a "blower door" test that showed air infiltration through gaps that added up to a 3' x 4' hole open to the outdoors. The bulk of the air leakage comes from the four attic spaces. It was estimated that \$100,000 would be needed to fix all the air leaks and insulation gaps with pay-back periods of 4 to 18 years per fix-up item.

Because the elevator failed the annual state inspection due to heavy rust on the "pit steel" framework under the elevator, the Library was granted a three-month temporary permit to operate the elevator and to give us time to remedy the situation. The pit steel rust was scraped, passed inspection, and painted by July. After the sump pumps failed three times during power outages (the elevator pit starts flooding in 15 minutes, faster than anyone can start the outside generator going during outages), the Executive Committee approved installing an automatic generator to prevent future elevator pit flooding and future rusting of the pit steel. An 11 KWH generator was installed with enough capacity to run all four of the sump pumps in the basement and all the Work Room circuits, which provides support so some work could continue at the library during power outages.

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## Volunteer Friends

Although last year's Annual Report included the demise of the Friends of the Library as an organization, there has not been any reduction in the number of people who befriend the Library. Volunteers, many coordinated by Circulation Manager Mary Anne Mead, continue to make a huge contribution to the Library.

In 2014, over 150 people volunteered a total of more than 3000 documented hours. Some volunteers - from senior citizens, young mothers, high school students and even grade-school students - donated hundreds of hours; some worked only a few. Many more undocumented hours were served without the volunteers remembering to sign-in. Some volunteers worked in the Library, at the Circulation Desk, re-shelving returned materials, repairing damaged materials, or processing inter-library loans. Some volunteers worked on the building itself, making repairs that would have cost a great deal if done by outside contractors. Some volunteers worked on the Historical Photo Archive collection and related programs.

Some volunteers worked at the Summer Story Camp. Some told stories to toddlers throughout the year. Some organized games for children and adults on winter evenings. Some volunteers served tea during the winter. Some supplied the goodies to go with the tea. Many of these people were members of the former Friends of the Library, showing they are still Friends, and Friends forever, we hope.

Some volunteers worked on special projects that the staff just doesn't have time to do. As in years past, the hours these volunteers donate to the Library are worth tens of thousands of dollars; money which can then be allocated to expand the Library collection, or just keep the heat and the lights on.

We thank them all profusely.

Linda Hayward, for the volunteers

Power washing and treatment of exterior shingles were finished on areas of the building that needed it. The second floor white trim on the north side of the building was also painted, which completed the repainting of building trim, mostly by volunteers, and treating of the shingles by a contractor that began in 2010. The Circulation Desk top surface was refinished. This project was funded by a private donor. The refinished top was installed in February 2015.

To reduce rising snow removal costs, the Library hired a patron to shovel and salt-sand the sidewalks at a cost much less than that of the previous private contractor. To reduce parking lot snow removal cost, the Library asked the Town to accept an easement from the Library so that the Town could plow the parking lot at no cost to the Library. In December, the Select Board agreed to accept such an easement and forwarded the request to the Warrant Committee. It will be one of the May 2015 Referendum Questions at the Town Meeting.

Throughout the year, miscellaneous minor repairs have been completed, such as fixing lamps, repairing office equipment, replacing window blinds and door weather seals. Shelves have been built in the basement storage area for annual book sales stocks.

The total cost of all the replacement and repairs of the building noted above approximates \$25,000 for 2014. In future years, repair costs will match or exceed \$25,000 annually to maintain the existing building properly.

Duane Braun, Buildings and Grounds



**Library Tea with music provided by Ruth Grierson and friends.**



# Children's Service



Another successful year has passed and we are on to a new one with new projects, new ideas, and new ways to serve the community we love. Each new family I meet has their own unique story and in sharing it, gives us the opportunity to serve them in every way we can.

When schools and libraries talk, good things happen. In 2014, our proposal for an ILEAD [Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover] Project was accepted. This means that with help from the Maine State Library, four MDI librarians, led by our own Lisa Murray, will design an interactive research portal that will provide a guided research experience that can be managed and maintained efficiently and accessed from schools, libraries and homes. This project came about in response to a need expressed during a meeting of school and public librarians; when completed, it will benefit every student, teacher, family and patron who asks a question. It will help us help you!

Our Literacy Partners group is committed to improving community literacy and continually finds ways to take the library out to where the kids are. Recognizing that crossing busy Main Street is a barrier to library use, we delivered books to Camp MAX at Harbor House all summer, essentially taking our summer reading program to them. This year we will improve on that to include a visit from a librarian each week to give out library cards, talk about new books and hear what the kids have been reading. We are also working on setting up a mini library at the Underground after school program, and plan to provide a constant supply of irresistible books. It makes me extremely happy when I see the same child three times in one day; once at Pemetec School, again at a Harbor House after school program and finally at this public library. I know then that our collaborations are strong, and I am grateful that our

small community can provide so much care together.

Every week the toddlers and their parents are treated to live music and singing with Bob Myers. We hosted author visits with Richard Peck, Herm and Mary-Jane Auch and Genevieve Morgan. We met the poet laureate of Maine and distributed baskets of poetry all over town. We made papier mache mice, dressed in Victorian costumes, carved pumpkins, for our seventh year of Summer Story Camp created four weeks of a free and inspiring summer literacy program, gave away beautiful new books to over 200 Trick-or-Treaters, made lanterns, were introduced to Shakespeare and other powerful performances by the Mohawk Arts Collective, made apple dolls, produced a library coloring book, and introduced baby/mama yoga. Inspiring us always are the fabulous books we read with kids and families. Come see for yourself; literacy is fun and alive here at the Southwest Harbor Public Library, and there is much more to come!

Susan Plimpton  
Childrens Librarian



Observing the wonder of watching Monarch butterflies emerge from their chrysalises



Right, book signing with Richard Peck

Below, Author Richard Peck with the Bookworms and their Victorian-attired papier mache mice

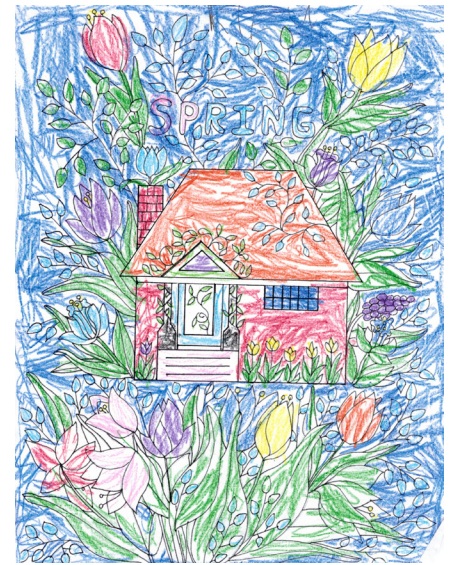




## Halloween Fun at SWHPL



Lego Builders



Spring coloring book page by Kieu McMullin



Baby Storytime



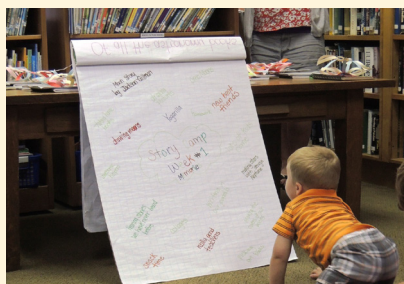
Above, Erin Hollis, pictured with Children's Librarian Susan Plimpton, asked her friends to contribute to the Library instead of giving her birthday presents.



Left, Children's Tea Party



## Summer Story Camp



# 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

that benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library

**May 4 -9, 2015**, Library hours. Buy your Mom something special at the **MOTHER'S DAY SALE**.

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**, 8-noon. Buy all your spring flowers at the **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**.

**Thursday, June 25, 2015**, Join us for a Special **Dinner** with a small **Silent Auction** at the Claremont Hotel. Stay tuned for details.

**Saturday & Sunday, July 18 & 19, 2015**, all day. **PAPERBACK BOOK SALE** of thousands of used paperbacks for your vacationing pleasure on the Library Front Lawn, Main Street, Southwest Harbor.

**Sunday, July 26, 2015**, 5:30-7 pm, **A CELEBRATION OF ART** Artist Reception and kick off to the month-long silent auction of community art to benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library.

**July 26 – August 26, 2015**, **A CELEBRATION OF ART** a month-long silent auction of community art to benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library. Enjoy the art of our talented community artists during August and plan to bid often or better yet, **BUY IT NOW**.

**Saturday & Sunday, August 1 & 2, 2015**, 9 am-5 pm, **GIANT USED BOOK SALE** at the American Legion Hall behind Library in Southwest Harbor. Fantastic bargains on **THOUSANDS** of hard cover books divided by category for your reading pleasure.

**Sunday, October 4, 2015**, Join us during our annual **LET'S BOOK WALK-A-THON**.

**Saturday, December 5, 2015**, 9 am-1 pm, **HOLIDAY BOOK SALE**.

**For More Information, Contact the  
Southwest Harbor Public Library  
207-244-7065 • [www.swharbor.lib.me.us](http://www.swharbor.lib.me.us)**



Family Fun at Game Night



Trustee Emeritus Pat Sweeney has made several raffle quilts benefiting the Library over the years.



Browsing the offerings at the annual Plant Sale



Gillman Jackson, storyteller



Enjoying tea time



Post Office Box 157, 338 Main Street  
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679  
PHONE & FAX: 207-244-7065  
EMAIL: [circulation@swharbor.lib.me.us](mailto:circulation@swharbor.lib.me.us)

LIBRARY HOURS:  
MON, TUES, THURS & FRI: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
WED: 9:00am - 8:00pm  
SAT: 9:00am - 1:00pm

*Open Doors . . . Open Minds*