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Erich Reed, *Director*

### Our Mission

Southwest Harbor Public Library inspires and supports the enjoyment of life-long learning, the love of literacy, and the exploration of new ideas, welcoming everyone through its doors.

## View from the Chair

### What does SWHPL mean to you?

The Director asked me that the other day. The activities in the Library on a recent Thursday brought all of what the Library means to me together: Upstairs the sewing group chatted as they stitched; in the children's room, a mother and toddler explored the books available; in the YA area, Ms. Chrissy worked with Pemetec students on how to do research; at the circulation desk, patrons checked out books they had just found or requested from inter-library loan; and in the front room, Board volunteers hosted tea and goodies for all comers.

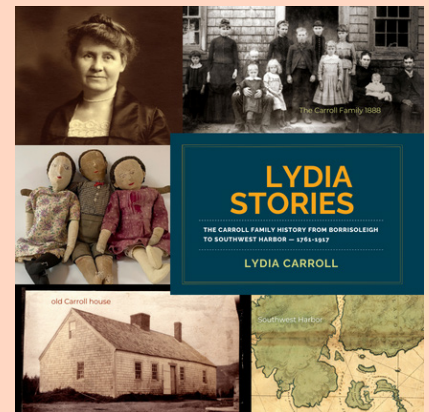
### What does SWHPL mean to me?

It means Southwest Harbor has a warm and welcoming place for the community to gather, be informed, and freely exchange ideas. Yes, we have books. But there is so much more. Come check us out.

Linda Hayward, Chair,  
Board of Trustees



Linda Hayward with Carroll Family historian Joan Jordan Grant and Lydia



**Lydia Stories:**  
*The Carroll Family History from Borrisoleigh to Southwest Harbor - 1761-1917*



Catching up



Library Flamingos on parade. Photo by George Soules



**Book inscription:**  
*Seeing this book here made our year!*  
Staff Janet Clifford with David Moscow while he was filming in Southwest Harbor for his TV show *From Scratch*.



## Library Staff

Erich Reed, *Director*  
 Chrissy Marie, *Youth and Community Services Associate Director*  
 Sadie Cooley, *Archivist*  
 Janet Clifford, *Cataloger*  
 Jack Cordova, *Library Assistant*  
 Amanda Crafts, *Library Assistant*  
 Melissa Haas, *Director of Development and Programming*  
 Kelsey Jones, *Library Assistant*  
 Ashley McLean, *Circulation Manager*  
 Cathy Oehmke, *Library Assistant*  
 Kate Pickup, *Director of Communications and Technology*  
 Li ana Young, *Library Assistant*

# Director's Report



**Erich Reed and Kate Pickup**, Director of Communications and Technology, with **Annie Seavey**, creator of the stained glass gifted to the children of Southwest Harbor, in 2000

We look forward to seeing you, your family, and your neighbors in the Library this year! Last week it was rewarding to work at the circulation desk and welcome a resident who hadn't been in the Library in the past 48 years as he came in to sign up for a tax appointment. We all work together to offer meaningful programs and services to strive to keep that interval shorter for everyone in our community!

A few new initiatives: we will offer circulating family museum passes this year—including for the **Wendell Gilley Museum**, **Seal Cove Auto Museum**, and **Oceanarium**. We also offer a collection of audiobooks and ebooks via the **Libby App** (that will work with the Kindle Paperwhite). Please take note of the thousands of magazines available through this service, including hundreds focused on gardening alone! Your Southwest Harbor Public Library card now works at both **Jesup** and **Northeast Harbor Libraries**, and our patrons have appreciated dropping off items at these libraries instead of navigating the winter road conditions and this may also come in handy if there is any traffic this summer.

We thank you all for the many ways you support us!

Erich Reed,  
 Director

# Children's Services

The SWHPL Children's Department is looking forward to offering engaging summer programs and summer reading for babies, kids and teens.

- **Summer Reading Program:** Babies, kids and teens can sign up to win prizes for reading throughout the summer.
- **Summer Storytimes:** Books, puppets, movements, songs, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10am.
- **Storytime N Climb at Volta:** Join library's Ms. Chrissy for an engaging storytime at **Volta Climbing Gym**, located at 8 Road Not Taken in Trenton, Sat., June 15, 10 am.
- **Summer Reading Kick-Off Party with Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers:** Kick-off and sign-up for summer reading and enjoy an engaging fun show by **Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers**. Tue., June 18, 6pm.
- **Acadia Explorer Program:** Calling all outdoor explorers - we're teaming up with **Acadia National Park** again to offer this adventurous, outdoor educational program. Registrants will receive a free book at each program and have the chance to explore and learn at park locations and at the Library.  
 Sat., June 22, 10am: meet at Echo Lake  
 Sat., July 27, 10am: meet at Carroll Homestead  
 Sat., Aug 3, 10am: meet at SWHPL
- **Kids Intro to Yoga:** For kids ages 6-11, this class is a perfect way to introduce kids to yoga. **Erika Rosso** will lead students in creative yoga asana(poses) and breathing techniques to help calm the mind and build confidence. Wed., June 26, 6pm
- **March with the Library during Harbor House Community Center's Flamingo Festival.** Sat. July 13th
- **Create Art with Mike Duffy:** July 18, 10am.
- **Read to Argos, the Therapy Dog:** Register for a time slot to read to **Argos the Therapy Dog**. Win summer reading prizes after your session for a job well done!
- **Summer Story Camp 2024:** Summer story camp will again serve AOS 91 School District families. The Library looks forward to partnering with the school district in continuing to foster a love of reading and literacy for our students. Sign up via your local school within the district.



- 1 Acadia National Park Rangers explore beavers during a summer program
- 2 Susan Raven's Pematic Third Graders present projects to the public and their families
- 3 Harbor House Children's Center kids and buggies in storytime with Ms. Amanda
- 4 A colorful butterfly takes flight during a Harbor House Children's Center program
- 5 A quiet moment in the Holmes Reading Room
- 6 Summer play during a sunny storytime in the Children's Garden

# Welcome



Kelsey Jones  
 Library Assistant



Ashley McLean  
 Circulation Manager



Li ana Young  
 Library Assistant

**HANCOCK COUNTY DOWNLOAD LIBRARY**  
 The New York Times  
 Borrow ebooks & audiobooks  
 Libby. The library reading app

## NEW DIGITAL SERVICES

The **Hancock County Download Library (HCDL)** collection offers SWHPL patrons access to an online library through the **Libby App** and the **New York Times Online All Access**. The HCDL is brought to you by **Blue Hill Public Library**, **Southwest Harbor Public Library**, **Northeast Harbor Library**, **Witherle Memorial Library (Castine)**, **Jesup Memorial Library (Bar Harbor)**, **Ellsworth Public Library**, **Bass Harbor Memorial Library**, **Buck Memorial Library (Bucksport)**, and **Friend Memorial Library (Brooklin)**.

**Libby** contains thousands of ebooks and audiobooks compatible with **Kindle Paperwhites** and other devices. **Libby** also offers over 4,000 magazines for adults and children. Access the collection with your card number and password. Download the **Libby App**.

**New York Times | All Access** is an online pass to **New York Times News, Games, Cooking, Wirecutter, and The Athletic**. Start exploring today by visiting our **Digital Collections** webpage. Download the **New York Times App**.



Federal Remote Worker Funds supported a new privacy booth, exterior outlets, and furniture with power outlets.

## UPDATED CHILDREN'S ROOM

We're thrilled about the changes that have been made to our children's room to encourage early literacy and imaginative play. Special thanks to **Shirley Fuerst** whose generous donation supplied the puppet theater. Shirley is a longtime library supporter. Her interest in puppetry began in 1950 when Shirley and her husband, **Adolph**, learned to make puppets and performed in settlement houses in the NYC area. She hopes the addition of the theater will share fun and instill creativity in a new generation. We thank you Shirley!

Thank you as well to **Max Farhi**; her skill and talent in carpentry brought us the new window seating, which was funded by a grant from the **Hattie A. and Fred C. Lynam Trust**. The Brauns ensured the theater was installed and oversaw the desk rearrangement. Thank you to everyone for their incredible efforts! We hope our community families will continue to enjoy these updates and the new offerings.





# Development Report



Trustee Kathryn Nelson at tea with a library neighbor

Recently someone asked me what the role of a library is in 2024. Why do we need a library when we can pick up our phones or get on our laptops and desktops and immediately have access to quantities

a wide variety of resources and services to our community, both near and far.

That's what the Library means most to me—it brings together so many people in so many ways and gives us a strong community home. It is the hub of our community. Once again, this past year, our community has come together to show their support for the Library. Our fundraising goal for 2023 was \$213,335. We surpassed that goal by over \$40,000!

Our ambitious fundraising goal for 2024 is \$235,000! Many of us have experienced increases in costs this past year, and the same is true for the Library. Basic expenses have increased: we need to have the heat on, turn up the lights, pay for books, maintain our facility and provide reasonable compensation to our staff. While the Southwest Harbor Public Library is a public library with open access for all, public funds provide only about 10% to 12% of our annual operating expenses. The Southwest Harbor Public Library relies on individual donors from our summer and year-round community to sustain our operations.

Please join me in supporting our community Library!

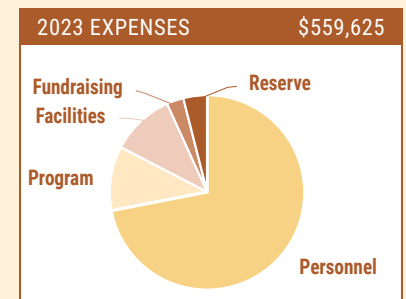
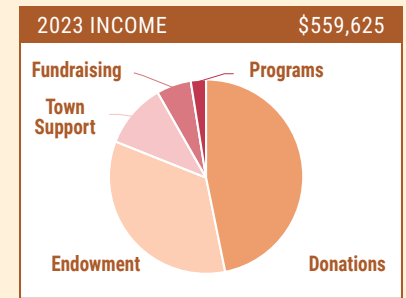
Kathryn K. Nelson, CPA  
Board of Trustees

of information? We can instantly research any question that comes to mind. We can download books to read. My enthusiastic answer is that libraries, and especially our Library, provide so much more than information and books. The Southwest Harbor Public Library certainly provides access to books in print and in digital and audio format, but it also offers access to movies, full access to the *NYTimes.com* (including not just news but cooking and games), and access to numerous data bases as well as our own digital archives which provide a glimpse of the history of our community. The Library makes available a range of services and programs including public computers, free wifi, copying/printing/scanning services and rooms for community use. The Library also hosts an outstanding program of speakers and events throughout the year. The Library is available to, and frequently used by, town and school groups. Our Library extends

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**OPERATING BUDGET** – Many generous Library supporters, Town support and a strong endowment allowed us to fund a capable staff and set aside funding for needed building improvements.

**ENDOWMENT** – A strongly recovering stock market year and continuing endowment gifts allowed us to fund about 1/3 of Library operations with a sustainable 4% withdrawal.



# Volunteers



1 Abe Noyes at work in the stonewall prepping for annual plantings of ivy and the beloved fairy fan flower.



2 Longtime volunteers Duane and Ruth Braun assembling the Children's Puppet Theater



3 Thanks to Joe Snider, our antique clock stays in time and in tune.



4 Summer Reading sign-ups get an extra boost from our volunteers at the Kick-off Party.

5 Intrepid Spring Clean-up volunteers work on the Children's Garden re-applying wood chips donated by Kris Harper.



## MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES



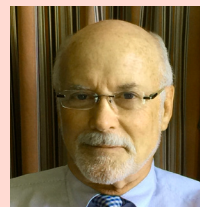
Richard Cohen



David Kline



Tom Lee



Bill MacIntosh



Rebecca Williams

The SWHPL Board of Trustees has welcomed five new members in the past few months.

**David Kline** comes from a background in television and non-profits. He divides his time between New York City and Southwest Harbor. David believes that at the heart of any thriving community is a thriving public library, and he is committed to the long-term health of the Southwest Harbor Public Library.

**Bill MacIntosh** is retired from a career in international treasury and finance. He has homes in Southwest Harbor and in Maryland, where he has been active with the non-profit community.

**Rick Cohen** lives full time in Tremont. Previously he's served as a judge, mediator, and arbitrator. He has taught Acadia Senior College courses on the US Constitution. He brings us much wisdom.

**Rebecca Williams** brings a background in finance and work with a variety of non-profits. Rebecca is a long-time, seasonal resident of MDI and a regular patron of Southwest Harbor Public Library. She is grateful for the librarians and programs that nourished her children over many years, and now for the programs that sustain lifelong-learners and build community in so many forms.

**Tom Lee** is a familiar face in the Library where he has volunteered with children's programs for many years. While still an elementary school teacher in New York City, he worked here on MDI with The Summer Festival of the Arts. He now lives in Bass Harbor year-round.

We also bid a fond farewell to **George Soules**, who stepped aside after years leading—sometimes pushing—the Board into 21st Century technology. Happily for the Library, George will continue to supply tech support for the Digital Archive, restock the Used Book Kiosk, and help with projects around the building. Thank you, George, for everything you do for us!

## 2023 WAS A BUSY YEAR!

**PATRON VISITS:**  
50,864 – 20% increase

**ITEMS CIRCULATED:**  
60,598 – Rivals historic highs

**PROGRAM ATTENDANCE:**  
8,411 – 27% increase

### WITH YOUR SOUTHWEST HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD:

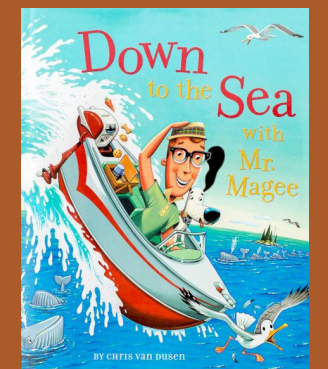
- Directly request over 4.5 million unique titles from over 100 Maine Libraries through our online catalog that can be delivered to the library, often within a week.
- Instantaneously access over 600,000 audio, eBooks, magazines, graphic novels and films through our cloudLibrary, Libby, ComicsPlus, and Kanopy services.
- Visit over 70 public, academic, and regional libraries throughout Maine (including Jesup and Northeast Harbor Libraries) and borrow from their collections.

### MOST CHECKED OUT BOOKS:

**FICTION** *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

**NON-FICTION** *The Wager: a tale of shipwreck, mutiny, and murder* by David Grann

**CHILDREN'S** *Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee* by Chris Van Dusen





# Digital Archive

When winter storms and high tides collided this January to cause dangerous swells, those eager to document the damage were quickly on the scene at Seawall. That same desire took hold of someone in **David B. Benson's** family more than fifty years ago when a different storm threatened to wash out the winding road that rises mere feet above the ocean. The picture of waves crashing over the road was taken from the restaurant **Lobsterland** in 1963. Owned by Benson, it would burn down only two years later in 1965.

Those who have lived around here have always done their best to capture life on the Island, whether it be beautiful, mundane, or even terrifying. The **Digital Archive** serves as a kind of communal mosaic of life over time, and we would like you to contribute. Cameras delivering high quality images are more available now than they were in the late 1800s when **Henry L. Rand** was capturing everything from the local blacksmith at work to the family cat.

If you have a high quality image clearly showing the damage done to Seawall and other areas around Southwest Harbor, please contact [scooley@swhplibrary.org](mailto:scooley@swhplibrary.org). It takes a town to tell a town's history.



Top: View of Seawall from Lobsterland in a Storm, 1963. From the Collection of the David B. Benson Family. Bottom: View of Seawall from the Seawall Motel, January 2024. Photo by David Shields.



## AROUND THE LIBRARY

**1** Jill Higgins uses the library's printing services to create street signs for her grandson's play village. **2** Pemetic Third Grader presenting his report about Goliath Birdeaters. **3** Michael Marion during a Saturday morning Quebecois Music Session **4** Library Trustee Carly Thaggard hears from a patron during a Coffee and Conversations feedback session **5** Tom Adams and Pemetic Kindergartners identify animal tracks **6** New puppy patron melting hearts at the front desk





## 2023 Donations & Grants

# Thank you to our generous donors!

Please contact us if you would like us to change your publication name.

\* deceased

### Cadillac Mountain \$10,000+

Beth Pfeiffer Charitable Fund  
Betsey Holtzmann & Abe H. Noyes  
Estate of Margaret Martin  
Marcy MacKinnon  
Rosalie J. Coe Weir Foundation

### Sargent Mountain \$5,000-9,999

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Ausolus Trust  
Melinda Bieber and Norman Pozez  
Douglas and Pamela Diehl  
Nancy Jones  
Thomas Flournoy III  
Flying Mountain Fund  
Lincoln Millstein and Irene Driscoll  
Kathryn and Thomas Nelson  
Steve Rush and Nancy O'Connor

### Dorr Mountain \$1,000-4,999

Anonymous (6)  
Jane Adams  
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Robert and Shirley Zinn

### Western Mountain \$500-999

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Dawn Sunday and Robert Stewart  
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Heidi Welch and Patricia Tierney  
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### Acadia Mountain \$250-499

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Jeanmarie Woods

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Phoebe Barnes  
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Jeanne Boyd  
Don and Jennifer Brandt  
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Rob and Katie Brokaw  
Joan Bromage  
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Sarah Clark  
Susan Clarke  
Stephen Clement  
Duke Collier and Maren Anderson  
Jay and Nancy Corrin  
John and Heidi Crock  
Liz Cutler



Writer's Forum at the Causeway Club with Tara Kelly, Christina Baker Kline, Gigi Georges, and moderator Library Trustee Charles Stanhope



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 Michele Daley  
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 Susan Choma

**Dog Mountain \$50-99**  
 Anonymous (5)  
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 Mark Kandutsch  
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 Craig Kesselheim and  
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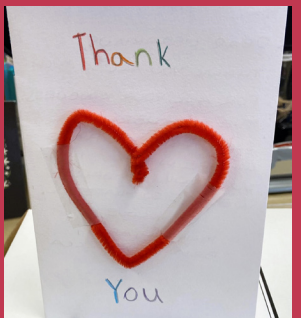
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**1 & 2** Digital Literacy at the library: first text after an iPhone class and window seat tech support

## Library Love

Been coming to Somers  
 saved for six years (in August)  
 first visit to your lovely  
 library. What a treat!  
 special place. (Dramklo).  
 Alan G. - Boston, MA  
 Beautiful + COOL library. Enjoyed  
 the exhibits use of free internet. Thankyou



Above: Comments from the library's guest book

Right: Card Inscription: Dear Librarians, Thank you so much for all your kindness. The SWH Library is a special place where we have made many memories. We are so grateful. Much love, **Finnian, Arlo, Brian, & Rebecca**





1



2

**1** An Art Auction purchaser meets the Artist Pat Pugh

**2** Regular Art Auction Photographer Matt Egelberg with his *The Isle Au Haut Island Light*

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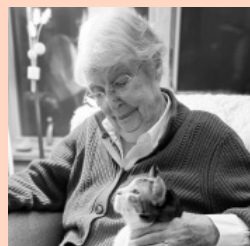
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Mary McClung



Tina Morris

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Salt  
Seal Cove Auto Museum  
Tom Cat Tide  
Wendell Gilley Museum

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Gloria Avner  
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David Beck  
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Stephen Linscott  
Christine Loizeaux  
Marsha Lyons  
Cherie Magnello  
Tom McGehee  
Ashley McLean  
Jack Merrill  
Carol Nelson  
Catherine Obbard  
Deborah Page  
Ellie Pancoe  
Kate Pickup  
Pat Pugh

### Monthly Artists

ArtWaves  
Liz Culter  
Jane Dwyer  
Kate Henry  
Hook 'n I  
Island Quilters  
Beth G. Lambert  
Tom Lee  
Plein Air Painters of Acadia  
John Putnam  
Charles Rasmussen  
Carol Shutt  
Vicky Smith  
Nan Ulett  
Wendell Gilley Museum

### Clark Point Ladies Breakfast Club

Birgitt Adams  
Elizabeth Angelbeck  
Elizabeth Block  
Mary Caulfield  
Peggy De Wolf  
Pamela Diehl  
Gigi Girgis  
Margaret Kelley  
Elizabeth McMullan  
Emily McQueen  
Kathryn Nelson  
Sylvia Smiley  
Nona Valiunas  
Paula Vogel  
Jessie Vogel

## HOOK 'N I RUG HOOKING EXHIBIT

**1** Linda Paine with 1930s Grenfell Mission Rug. Purchased circa 1930, probably in Boston, and used on the floor, as intended, until 10 years ago.

**2** The exhibit set-up crew: Jan Reed, Karen McFarland, Nancy Weingarten, Judith Burger-Gossart, Sandy Wilcox, and Sugar Fenton. Other rug hooking exhibitors include Patsy Fogarty, Bianka Fuksman, Mary Hays, Cookie Horner, Rosemary Levin, Leigh Liebow, Betsy Patterson, Liz Rosenfeld, Nancy Turner, and Patty Wharton.



1



2

If we have made an error in our acknowledgements, please notify Melissa Haas at mhaas@swhplibrary.org.



A Little, reading & relaxing



# 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

that benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday July 12 - 14th  
**FLAMINGO FESTIVAL BOOK SALE**

Discover your next best reads amongst thousands of pre-loved books at the American Legion Hall while celebrating your pink during Harbor House's Annual Flamingo Festival.

Saturday, July 13th  
**FLAMINGO FESTIVAL PARADE**

Fly in formation with the library flock strutting your stuff down Main Street, Southwest Harbor.

August 1 - 28  
**A CELEBRATION OF ART EXHIBIT & SILENT AUCTION**

Stop by or check out the online site, available for viewing August 1st, and support the Library and the Arts by bidding often, or Buy-It-Now. Take home a unique work of art from our talented community of artists.

Sunday, August 4th  
**A CELEBRATION OF ART RECEPTION**

Art Party! Meet the artists, and bid on artwork from this one-of-a-kind ensemble of works related to Mount Desert Island and the coast of Maine. Buy-It-Now is always an option if you don't want to miss out and lose to a higher bidder!

Tuesday, December 3rd  
**GIVING TUESDAY**

Prioritize the Library in your charitable giving on this day of global generosity.

Saturday, December 7th  
**HOLIDAY BOOK SALE & SCALLOP RAFFLE KICK-OFF**

Find the perfect gift for giving from hundreds of new or nearly new hardcover and paperback books. Take a chance to win one gallon of fresh-caught scallops donated by Southwest Harbor resident **Holly Masterson**. The winning ticket will be drawn Saturday, December 28th at noon.

For More Information, Contact the  
**Southwest Harbor Public Library**  
 207-244-7065 • [swhplib.org](http://swhplib.org)



**1** *Beer Hiking New England* with **Carey Kish**, rediscovering the Northeast hiking and local craft beers along the way **2** Inspired by her students, **Carol Shutt**, mixed media artist and retired art teacher, shares that the best part of being an artist is the process itself **3** **Darron Collins**, College of the Atlantic President, gives the *McCue Lecture* "A Human Ecology Education for the 21st Century" **4** **Wendell Gilley Museum's Artist in Residence Steve Valleau** shares the art of bird carving **5** Scene with Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire ghosts from Southwest Harbor Playwright **Carolyn Gage's** play reading "St. Frances and the Fallen Angels". Read at the American Legion Hall, the play is about **Frances Perkins**, Secretary of Labor and major force behind the Social Security Act **6** March Women's History Month exhibitor **Marsha Lyons** with *When Women Were Birds* based on the book by **Terry Tempest Williams** **7** **Christina Baker Kline** with **Alice Elliot Dark**, *Fellowship Point*, on the lawn of St. John's Church



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LIBRARY HOURS:  
 Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
 Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

*Open Doors . . . Open Minds*



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Please check social media and [swhplibrary.org](http://swhplibrary.org) for updates

### APRIL

**APRIL 23**  
Images of Acadia with **Anne Kozak**

**APRIL 30**  
Poetry reading with **Paul Weiss**

### MAY

**MAY 14** Contemporary Crime & Justice Trends, A Criminologist Perspective with **Ron Weiner**

**MAY 21** *Pirate Trap* book talk with **Matt Cost**

**MAY 28** *Stumbling Around the World for NPR* book talk with **Peter Breslow**

### JUNE

**JUNE 4**  
Geology of MDI with **Duane and Ruth Braun**

**JUNE 13**  
Medicare 101 in-person

**JUNE 25**  
The Influence of Seasonal Economy on MDI's Year-Round Housing Patterns with the **MDI Historical Society**

### JULY

**JULY 9**  
McCue Lecture with **Professor Theda Skocpol**

**JULY 17**  
Authors **Roxana Robinson & Christina Baker Kline** at MDIHS

**JULY 20**  
**Susan Deborah King** poetry reading

**JULY 22**  
Kneisel Hall Performance

**JULY 30**  
The Fire of '47 Through the Eyes of a 7 year-old

**JULY 31**  
*The Pursuit of Happiness* with **Jeffrey Rosen**, CEO of the National Constitution Center



### AUGUST

**AUGUST 4**  
A Celebration of Art reception

**AUGUST 6**  
*The Pastoral Letter* film screening

**AUGUST 15**  
Edith Hamilton Day at the SWHPL

**AUGUST TBD**  
Causeway Club joint event - speaker TBD



*Open Doors... Open Minds*

Enclosed  
Annual Report  
2023

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