



Annual Report

2024



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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

Celebrate Our Future!

Since our Library's beginnings in the 1880s - when Mrs. Annie Sawyer Downs gathered discarded books from the summer hotels and placed them on a shelf in a corner of Dr. R. J. Lemont's drug store - we have grown into a vibrant hub at the heart of Southwest Harbor. Our Main Street building, dedicated on October 31, 1895 marked the start of the Southwest Harbor Public Library's enduring commitment to serving our community.

Over the decades, we have continuously evolved in new and innovative ways: expanding our services to include a vast digital library, research tools, streaming options, local historical archives, meeting spaces, and year-round programming for all ages.

To celebrate our rich history, we invite you to join us for a special week of celebration from July 21-27. Enjoy exciting displays, engaging activities, and visits from McCue Lecturer journalist Lincoln Caplan on July 22, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo on July 24. We'll conclude with a community barbecue on July 27.

We're excited to honor our past this year, and we are eager to look forward to our future!

Kathryn K. Nelson, CPA



Trustees Rebecca Williams (Development Chair) at left and Kathryn Nelson (Board Chair) at right hosting Constitution specialist Jeffrey Rosen author of *The Pursuit of Happiness*.

NPR journalist Peter Breslow shares experiences from his book *Outtakes: Stumbling around the World* for NPR.



Flamingo Parade Storytime On The Go



Touch-a-Truck Ambulance Visit



Pemetic Kindergarten Class and Dr. Tom Adams exploring snow

Library Staff

Erich Reed, *Director*
Paul Burnell, *Library Assistant*
Sadie Cooley, *Archivist*
Janet Clifford, *Cataloger*
Amanda Crafts,
Library Assistant
Melissa Haas,
*Director of Development
and Programming*
D Laninga
Library Assistant
Ashley McLean,
Circulation Manager
Cathy Oehmke,
Library Assistant
Kate Pickup,
*Director of Communications
and Technology*

Director's Report



Drawing the Scallop Raffle winner.

We look forward to celebrating our 130th year with you as your town library!

The Southwest Harbor Public Library is more than just a collection of books: we are a vibrant gathering place where neighbors come together to share ideas, attend programs, and explore new interests. From storytimes for young readers to technology classes for seniors, we strive to create offerings that inspire and empower every member of our community.

This spring, we are excited to take two important steps toward a more inclusive and sustainable future: installing solar panels to reduce our environmental impact and adding a new wheelchair ramp to improve accessibility.

We are committed to offer something for everyone in our community and welcome your feedback and suggestions to help shape our Library's future.

As we mark 130 years of free programs and services, we invite you to join us - our doors are always open!

Erich Reed, Director

Welcome



Paul Burnell, Library Assistant



D Laninga, Library Assistant

FREE MUSEUM PASSES

The Library offers free passes to a variety of museums around the state of Maine. Funding support for the Museum Pass program has been provided by Carol Sullivan in memory of her parents, Pat and Mary Sullivan.

New this year, we're excited to add 2025 passes to the Abbe Museum and the Land & Garden Preserve. The following museum tickets are available:

*Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
Farnsworth Art Museum
Maine Granite Industry Museum
Maine Discovery Museum
Oceanarium & Education Center
Portland Museum of Art
Seal Cove Auto Museum
Wendell Gilley Museum*



Look for all the museum pass information on our website under Borrow.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS & SERVICES

Explore our Digital Collections and Services by finding them on the webpage under BORROW.

Beginning in April, look for a new digital service, The Wall Street Journal. We still have the New York Times All Access Pass that will give you 24-hour access to New York Times News, Games, Cooking, Wirecutter, and the Athletic.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ

kanopy

THOUGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT



CloudLibrary



Libby.

The library reading app

The New York Times

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, and more. Wednesdays (babies) and Fridays (families) at 10am.



Mae is a Maine native with a background in both early childhood education and library services. Before her move to the MDI region in 2019, she had spent four years as a children's librarian in Cumberland County. Driven by her passion and enthusiasm for early literacy, she had also spent many years teaching in both preschool and elementary classrooms, where she inspired a love of reading in children of all ages. Mae is looking forward to getting to know everyone in the Southwest Harbor Public Library community, and hopes to see you at Storytime!



- 1 Saying Goodbye
- 2 Raising A Reader
- 3 Reading To Argos
- 4 Young Adult Room Comfy Chair
- 5 Making art with beloved art teacher Mike Duffy
- 6 Balloon Car Engineers
- 7 Ms. Amanda's Baby Storytime, siblings welcome
- 8 Gnome Garden Play

Development Report

The Southwest Harbor Public Library relies on support from individuals throughout our community to fulfill our mission - to inspire and support the enjoyment of life-long learning, the love of literacy, and the exploration of new ideas.

Although we are a public library, municipal funds cover approximately 10% of our annual operating expenses. We rely on individual donors - YOU - for the remaining expenses. Your contributions make everything we do possible.

This year, you donated in record amounts to the annual appeal. These are the critical funds that sustain all our activities throughout the year. We also received planned giving and endowment gifts, which are essential for the Library's future. We are deeply grateful for every contribution.

Your generosity allows us to acquire and preserve books and periodicals, maintain our facilities, and provide fair compensation to our dedicated staff. Yet your generosity does even more than that - it supports us in opening our doors to all for 130 years and beyond.

Thank you for being a part of our donor community!

Rebecca Williams



Sarah Fraley freshens up one of her arrangements of fresh flowers in the Village Green entrance. Another of her bouquets announces a **Mount Desert Nursing Association Series: Aging in Place Confidently & Safely.**

Welcome . . .

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

Barbara Amstutz enjoyed a successful career in corporate law transitioning to the non-profit world and serving as a mediator. She and her husband Mark have moved to Southwest Harbor year-round and often attend and host library programs.

Julia McCue recently retired from working in many roles for the Portland Press Herald. Her husband's family has longstanding roots on the Island. She is interested in historic preservation.

Ethan Miller Ethan Miller is the Chief Financial Officer at the Riverside Park Conservancy in New York City with a career in finance and the nonprofit sector. Ethan and his family are long-time seasonal residents of Southwest Harbor and frequent visitors to the Library.



Barbara Amstutz



Julia McCue



Ethan Miller

. . . and Farewell

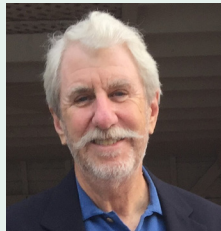
We also bid farewell to **Linda Hayward, Carly Taggard, and Jim Vekasi**. Linda served for many years as a dedicated volunteer, Board member and Board Chair. She was committed to supporting the Library in all its endeavors. Carly stepped aside after several years. She was the voice of families with young children and a strong advocate for our children's programming. Jim managed all things financial. From preparing our budget and watching our expenses to monitoring our endowment, Jim was always a steady hand on every aspect of our finances. Thank you, Linda, Carly and Jim.



Linda Hayward



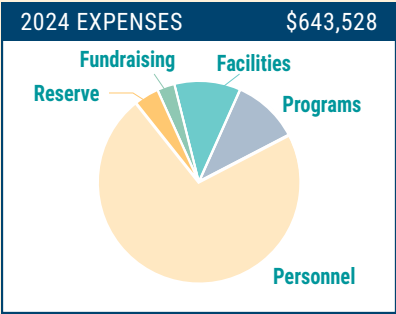
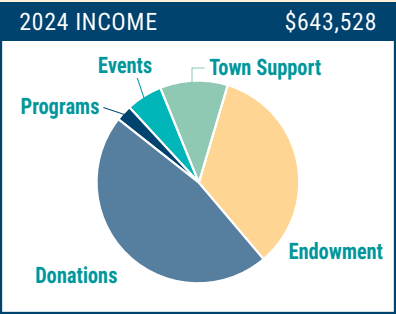
Carly Taggard



Jim Vekasi

TREASURER'S REPORT

Many generous Library supporters, Town support and a strong endowment allowed us to fund our staff, maintain our building, grow our collection and offer services and programs to our community. We were also able to add to our reserve funds which will help the organization make additional improvements as needed. Our endowment continues to grow and remains an important source of support.



Volunteers



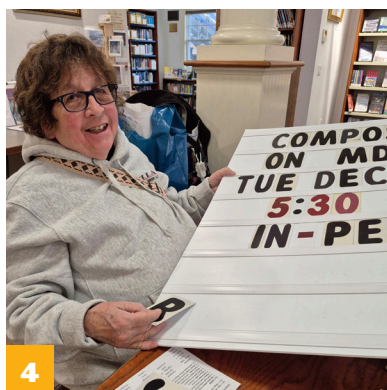
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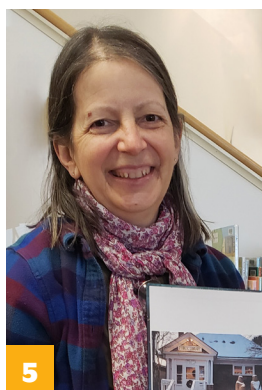
2



3



4



5

1 Lynette has all the tools to take on book processing **2** A family of volunteers divides up tasks to prepare new books. **3** Tom Lange, shelveur extraordinaire, with his son Walter, at Tom's program "Before Public Libraries: Door-to-Door Book Sales in America." **4** Karen Klausky: street sign superhero **5** Sherri Christianson heads off to shelve books in the Children's Room **6** Margo Martin surveys her magazine rack make-over. Scan the QR code to browse the hundreds of online magazines on Libby.



6

BY THE NUMBERS

PATRON VISITS:
54,209

ITEMS CIRCULATED:
61,189

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE:
7,937

WITH YOUR SOUTHWEST HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD:

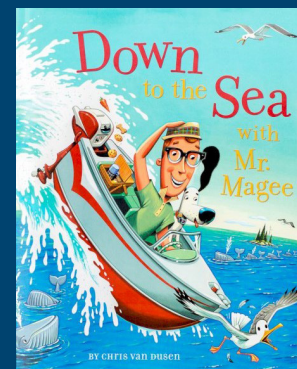
- Directly request over 4.5 million unique titles from over 100 Maine Libraries through our online catalog that can be delivered to the library, often within a week.
- Instantaneously access over 600,000 audio, eBooks, magazines, graphic novels and films through our cloudLibrary, Libby, ComicsPlus, and 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 *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

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

Professor Eleazer Bartlett Homer was the architect who designed the library; he received his B.S. in Architecture from MIT in 1885, designing the library ten years later. He later went on to serve as the first director for the Rhode Island School of Design. Melvin Norwood was the lowest bidder and was awarded the contract to build the library.

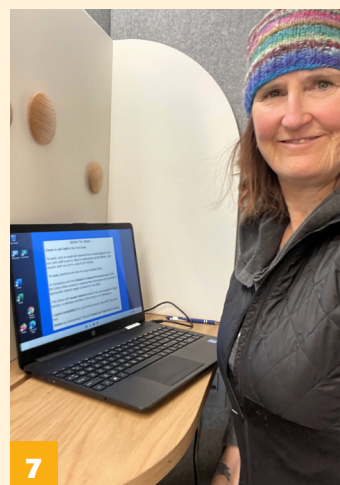
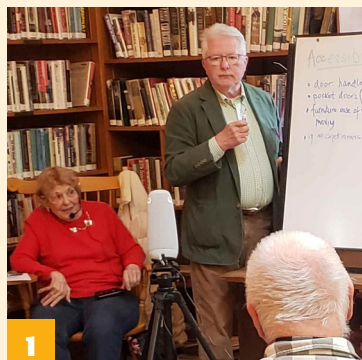
Check out the Digital Archive to view more historic images and read stories about the people, places, boats, and more.



The Library in 1896.

AROUND THE LIBRARY

1 Accessibility consultant Anne Napier, with Trustee Charles Stanhope, leads the community conversation "Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Libraries." **2** Family Time **3** Teatime at the library. Upcoming Library Teas: Thursday, March 20th and April 17th. **4** Exploring the stacks **5** Pemetic student Violet Allen exhibits in the "Scientific Illustrations: A Collaboration of Visual Arts and Science of Pemetic Middle School Students" **6** Nancy Turner knitting with the Hook 'n I Group Thursdays from 1-3pm. **7** Privacy Booth Patron **8** Nayeli Monahan's banner accompanies the June Pride display





Thank you to our generous donors!

Please contact us if you would like
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If we have made an error
in our acknowledgements,
please notify Melissa Haas at
mhaas@swhplibrary.org

2024 Donations & Grants

* deceased

Cadillac Mountain \$10,000+

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Betsey Holtzmann & Abe Noyes
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Western Mountain \$500-999

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David Scull and
Francine Mayhew
Lucy Bell Sellers
Mitch Sikora and Peggy Edson
George Soules and
Janice Kenyon
Jane Stewart
Jane Tawney
Alice and Robert Thaggard
The First National Bank
Kristi and Nick Tsiopanas
Ronald and Diana Weiner
Rebecca Wright

EXHIBITS



Leeann Rhoades
at the reception
for her multimedia
exhibit exploring her
work as a Climate
Ambassador with A
Climate To Thrive.
Image: Mallard
Melody

Artist Susan Beallor's photography installation,
'Xela: Weathered and Worn,' was inspired by
photographs taken on a tripto Guatemala.





Island Readers and Writers Storytime with authors Casey Robbins ('Iver and Ellsworth') and Maya Myers ('Not Perfect')

Beech Mountain \$100-249

Anonymous (5)
Acadia Senior College
Paul and Kathryn Alessi
Lori Andersen
Sandy and Elly Andrews
Susan and Michael Angstrom
Anonymous
Lorraine Aronson
Dick Atlee and Sarah Corson
Clara Baker
Bar Harbor 365
Henry Barendse
Phoebe Barnes
Kate Baxter
Ronald Beard
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Philip and Astri Brooks
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Alisone M. Clarke
Virginia Clarke and Ted Lyman
Stephen Clement
Lio Cook
Michael and Lynnette Cook
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Owen and Kimberly Craighead
Heidi Crock
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Michele Daley
Alice Elliot and Larry Dark
Leticia Davis
Mariah and Joseph Dawson
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Carolyn deBerry
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Roy Castellucci
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Donnaruma
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David and Rennie Greenfield
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Babette Gwynn
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Deborah Cressler
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Debra Harms and Timothy Ross
Holly Hartley
Hilary Harwood
Patrick Hassett and
Elizabeth Crockett
Jane Hastings
Michael and Sharyn Hastings
William and Diane Hastings
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Monika Heimbold
Anne Heisey
Carol and Gordon Henley
Eric and Kate Henry
Elizabeth Herrick
Philip and Ruth Hicks
Peter and Linda Homer
William Hudson
Kristin Hutchins
Mary Jellison
Ruth Jellison
Heather Jones
Daniel Kane and Katherine Emery
Charles Kelsh
Robert and Nannerl Keohane
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Susan Kahn
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Celeste and James Sawyer
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Henry Schmelzer and
Cynthia Livingston
Leigh Schmidt and Marie Griffith

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Samuel Shaw
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Bob Shields
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Seth Singleton
Inge Smallidge
Mrs. Alice and Dr. A.C.H. Smith
Bart and Anna Smith
Pamela Smith
Thomas and Bettina Smith
Louise Soucy and Jim Geary
Robert and Julia Spahr
Jody and Julie Staggs
Margo and Stephen Stanley
Gary Stellflug
Leslie Stone
Darrell and Jacqueline Storholt
Wayne and Carol Strasbaugh
Prentice Strong and
Ann Dundon
Tom and Suzette Tanguay
Sherman Todd
Benjamin and Kate Tongue
Brian Trask
John Treanor
Kate and Lowell Turner
Christiaan van Heerden
Gerard Vasisko and
Margot Woolley
Howard and Paula Vogel
Betty Wallace and Lisa Jacobs
Stephen and Connie Walsh
Evelyn and Christian Walter
Jean and Kimball Warren
Linda Washburn
David Waters and James Moore
Harlan Wechsler
Jim Weeks

PLEIN AIR PAINTERS EXHIBIT



1 Katie Churchill, Maggie Johnston, Vicky Smith, and Joan Vienot setup the group show.
2 Katie Churchill's "Grazing on the Coast."



Summer Reading: Waiting to report

Alan Weinstein and
Deb Dewhurst
Frances S. Wetherell
Juanita Wetherell
Mr. Rick and Dr. Mollie Wheeler
Aimee Williams
Melinda and Chris Willis
Judith Willock
David and Susan Woodbury
Hilary Woodward
Mark Worcester
Andrew and Carolyn Wright
Carl Wrubel
Morgan and Susan Douglass
Yates
Chuck and Ruth Yeiser
Geoffrey Young and Emily Beck
Allen Zimmerman and
Susan Choma

Dog Mountain \$50-99

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Phyllis Acadia
Enoch Albert and Sharon Knopp
Alan and Diane Amendt
Barbara Andrus
Ann Axtmann
Margot Baldwin
Carolyn Ball and Merlin Williams
Brett and Lori Barrett
Russell and Lynne Bradford
Starr Bright
Mr. Hamish Caldwell and
Dr. Dalia Judovitz
Daniel and Rita Chalmers
Sherri and Gregory Christianson
Marianne Clark
Robert Clark and
Lisa Horsch Clark
Janet and Robert Clifford
Hal and Debbie Cohen
Ken Collins and
Cyd Champagne Collins
Glenn and Sherry Conklin
Lisa Cosgrove-Davies
Elizabeth Crafts
Karen Craig
Judith Cullen
John Currin and Rachel Feinstein
Marinus W. B. Cutler
Anthony and Stephanie Davis
Muriel Davisson

Emilie and Matt DeLaney
Deborah Dewalt
Mr. John and Dr. Helene Dickel
Devin and Rachel Dobrowski
Molly Donlan and
Thomas Witten
Martha Dudman
Nancy Ellman and
James Aspires
Candy and Jay Emlen
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Rhonda and Mark Fortin
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Deborah and Bruce Gardner
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Dr. Linda Schoen-Giddings
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Jill Barlow-Kelley
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Ted Kleinman and
Marsha Cohen
Jeff Klueter and Tobie Bernstein
Neil and Peggy Kostick
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M. Sean and Patricia Laane
Beverly and Paul Lamoureux
Ron Lancaster

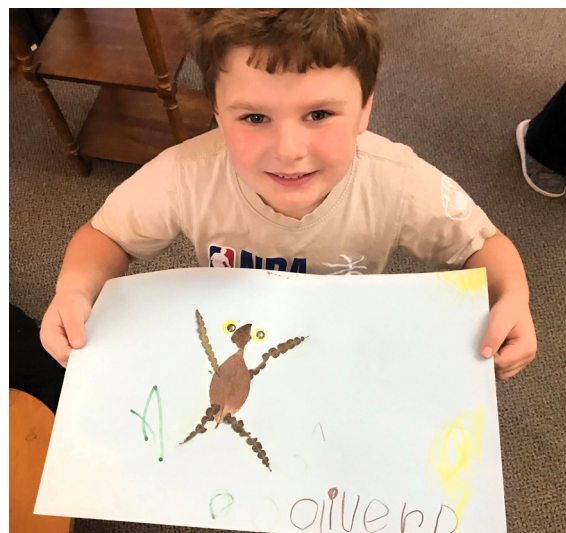
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Barbara and Owen Logue
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Carson Lutes
Marty Lyons
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Wayne Glausser
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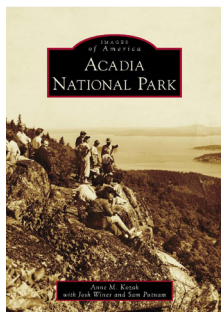
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Susan Beallor
Liz Cutler
Hook 'n I

Ann Jones
Leslie Jones
Terre Lefferts
MDI Island Quilters
Paper Moon Jewelry
Pemetic Elementary School
7th & 8th Graders
Plein Air Painters of Acadia
Leeann Rhoades
Eric Uberseder

Clark Point Ladies Breakfast Club

Liz Angelbeck
Betsy Block
Amy Brown
Lyn Cook
Kay MacIntosh
Victoria Paskett
Diana Reynolds
Paula Vogel
Elizabeth Williams

Acadia Wildlife Center Director Tony Mullone and Ambassador Spike.

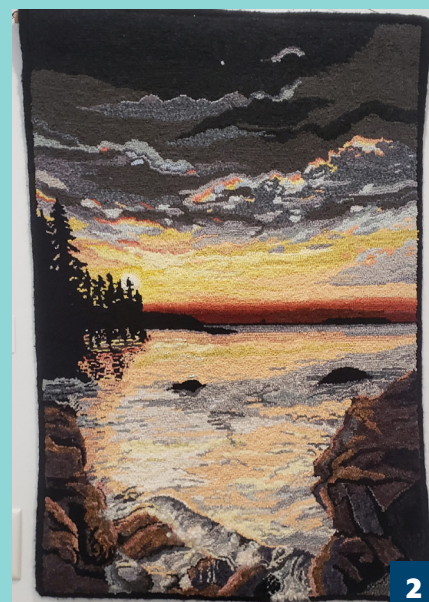
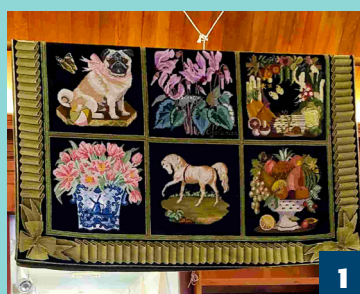
Scan the QR Code to see Spike and Tony and other Program Recordings.

Program Recordings
YouTube Channel
@swhpubliclibrary



HOOK 'N I RUG HOOKING EXHIBIT

- 1 Patsy Fogarty Needlepoint Tapestry
- 2 Mary Hays Sunrise
- 3 Jan Reed Work in progress



2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

that benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library

FLAMINGO FESTIVAL BOOK SALE

July 11 - 13

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.

FLAMINGO FESTIVAL PARADE

July 12

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

SOUTHWEST HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK

July 21 - 27

Join us in celebrating 130 years of the Library! This week will be filled with a variety of festivities including a visit with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo on the 24th and a community barbeque on the 27th.

A CELEBRATION OF ART EXHIBIT & SILENT AUCTION

August 1 - 27

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.

FINISH LINE FESTIVAL BOOK SALE

October 18 - 19

What better way to pass the time waiting for your favorite runner to cross the finish line than finding your next great read! Celebrate the runners of the MDI Marathon and Half at the Southwest Harbor Finish Line Festival!

GIVING TUESDAY

December 2

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

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE & SCALLOP RAFFLE KICK-OFF

December 6

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 Holly Masterson. The winning ticket will be drawn Friday, December 26 at noon.

For More Information, Contact the
Southwest Harbor Public Library
207-244-7065 • swhplibrary.org



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6



7

- 1 A traveling exhibit about **Frances Perkins**, Secretary of Labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1933 to 1945.
- 2 Co-author **Carl Little** at his talk about the book *The Art of Penobscot Bay* co-written with his brother **David Little**.
- 3 **Kneisel Hall** musicians at **St. John's Church** preparing for their concert made possible by generous donations from music lovers.
- 4 **Martha Tod Dudman** entertains with her experiences writing *Sunrise and the Real World*.
- 5 Professor **Theda Skocpol** presenting "Pushing Against Jim Crow: The Amazing Worlds of African American Fraternal Orders in the USA and Maine," a McCue Lecture.
- 6 Director of Development and Programming **Melissa Haas** prepares for the Holiday Book Sale.
- 7 Volunteer **Joan Meiselman** restocking tables for the **Marathon Day Book Sale** during the first ever October Finish Line Festival.



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APRIL

APRIL 4
Pink Moon
Poetry
Gathering

APRIL 15
*Cost
of Fear*
author talk
with **Meg
Stone**

APRIL 17
Library Tea

APRIL 22
Backyard
Birding
with **Maine
Audubon**

MAY

MAY 20 Climate Vulnerability
with **Gulf of Maine Research
Institute**

MAY 28 **Richard Russo** Book Group: *Empire Falls*

JUNE

JUNE 3 Dairy Farms of MDI
MDI Historical Society

JUNE 17 Reading with Wings: *Haiku & Hope*
with **Maggie Dewane**

JUNE 24 Thru Hiking **Carey Kish**

JUNE TBD Two-part screening of *Empire Falls*



JULY

JULY 17
Kneisel Hall Concert

JULY 22
McCue
Lecture
featuring
**Lincoln
Caplan**

JULY 24
Author talk with
Richard Russo

JULY 27
130th Celebration
& Barbeque

JULY 16
Richard Russo
Book Group:
Elsewhere: A Memoir

JULY 21-27
Southwest Harbor
Public Library Week &
130th Celebrations

AUGUST

AUGUST TBD **Judith
Goldstein** & Humanity
in Action

AUGUST 4
Causeway
Conversations
Journalism Panel

AUGUST 19 Geology
of MDI with **Duane
and Ruth Braun**



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