



The Library News

Southwest Harbor Public Library



Sleepless in Southwest Harbor

by Candy Emlen

People often ask me, "How is the library?" Happily, I am always able to say, "Great." We are busy, our staff is happy, and, most important, our patrons seem satisfied with the services they receive. That is exactly why I am losing sleep.

Our community is very library savvy. They read – a lot. They attend the variety of programs offered. They use the Internet computers for a wide variety of reasons. They stay connected through our walk-in wireless. And everyone seems pleased with Minerva, which allows our patrons to check their library accounts from home and browse the catalogues of all the Minerva libraries. Our library hums. In the 2004 Public Libraries' Annual Report issued by the Maine State Library our library, per capita, was No. 3 in the state for circulation, No. 2 in the state for children's program attendance, and No. 1 in the state for number of library visits. Thank goodness. It would be sad to have this wonderful resource and have no one use it.

Our patrons are also very supportive when it comes to giving. Our volunteers are tireless; they share their time freely and enthusiastically. The response to our Annual Appeal is always generous. Our various fundraising events are well supported. And at Town Meeting each year the community votes to allow town funding to continue. So why am I losing sleep?

Money – it always comes down to money. Many of our expenses are beyond our control, like utilities and insurance. Those we have control over, like salaries and acquisitions, we review carefully each year. We rely on volunteers wherever possible, we apply for grants when they are offered and appropriate, and we are constantly reviewing things to see where money can

be saved. We are fiscally conservative, but the busier we get, the more it takes to keep things going.

If we were a business that charged for its services, we would probably be making all kinds of money, but we are not. We are a library whose services are free. We are open to everyone equally no matter who they are or what their situation. Our mission is to encourage the enjoyment of reading and the pleasure of life-long learning by welcoming all through its doors. That is why I am losing sleep. I want us to always be in the position to offer the best library services possible.

In the future there will be more talk about our Endowment Campaign. I hope this is taken seriously. A larger Endowment would allow us to offer more to our patrons without overburdening our other forms of fundraising. And then, perhaps, I won't be

Fiscal Reality

by Vicki Vendrell

And so it seems always to be about money. Our library's exemplary service inevitably depends on a solid monetary foundation. How does the library make ends meet? What are its costs and why do they grow?

The library is a nonprofit organization that receives support from a variety of sources. The first of these is its annual appeal. When I joined the library's Board of Trustees, the annual appeal was \$60,000, which represented approximately one half of the library's operating budget. That was the last full year before the addition was completed and in use. In 2001 the appeal rose to \$95,000 recognizing not

only growth in space, but also in services and staff expenses. This year's goal is \$107,700.

Additional income comes from the Town of Southwest Harbor, which acknowledges the services that the library provides for its residents through an annual appropriation. This has been level-funded at \$45,000 for the past three years. Fundraisers are an increasingly important income stream. Lastly, the library receives an annual distribution of income earned from its endowment.

In the last five years there have been the following increases in these income categories: annual appeal - \$10,200; fundraising events - \$28,800; Town of Southwest Harbor - \$1,800; and distribution from endowment - \$19,000. All of this monetary support is enhanced by the invaluable in-kind support of the legion of volunteers who share their time with the library.

During this same time period the library's budget has grown by approximately \$65,000, or over 35%. Salary and benefits represent the largest portion of this increase (\$32,150), in part because we now offer health insurance for full-time staff, paying 75% of the premium for eligible employees. Building and Grounds and Equipment and Maintenance expenses are up \$17,800. These include Minerva, our new operating system, for which we pay a \$3,000 annual subscriber fee and, most importantly, the \$6,000 annual reserve for future capital needs of the facility. The cost of books and periodicals has increased \$6,000, and as we are all well aware, energy costs have soared.

So, how does the library make ends meet? The Board of Trustees continues to build the library's endowment to relieve the pressure on the annual fund, which we would like to cap at \$100,000. We

Open Doors...Open Minds

A Tribute to Henry & Priscilla Smith

For more than 20 years, Henry and Priscilla Smith devoted themselves in innumerable capacities to the Southwest Harbor Public Library. Shortly after moving to Mt. Desert Island in 1982, Henry joined the Footloose Friends and thrived on every excursion, particularly those to Beech Cliff where he and his fellow hikers could observe the migratory patterns of hawks. In characteristic fashion, Henry was soon organizing hikes for the group and had become a Trustee of the library. Once the library embarked upon its expansion campaign in 1997, Henry realized that increased public awareness would help bring news and updates to all patrons and community members. He revitalized this newsletter, now published bi-annually.

When the library at College of the Atlantic burned, Priscilla volunteered her services and expertise to help re-catalog all the College's holdings. Enormously supportive of all Henry's endeavors, Priscilla, too, became involved in the Southwest Harbor Public Library, though she preferred helping with the plant sales, bake sales and other community work. Like her husband, Priscilla was a voracious reader; she and Henry were supporters of and advocates for all of Mt. Desert Island's libraries.

When it came time for Henry and Priscilla to draw up a will, they naturally thought of the Southwest Harbor Public



The Southwest Harbor Public Library is the recipient of a generous bequest for endowment from the estate of Priscilla and Henry Smith, shown here on Cranberry Island.

Library, the focal point of their lives for more than two decades, and they included a generous bequest for endowment. For Henry and Priscilla the library was both a way to serve and be connected to the community of which they had become an integral part. Making a bequest gave Henry and Priscilla the opportunity to ensure that the library would continue to be a vibrant center of the community for all individuals living or visiting the quiet side of Mt. Desert Island for decades to come.

Southwest Harbor Public Library

Post Office Box 157
338 Main Street
Southwest Harbor
Maine 04679-0157
Telephone - 207-244-7065
www.swharbor.lib.me.us

Library Hours
Monday, Tuesday
Thursday, Friday
9 AM to 5 PM
Wednesday
9 AM to 8 PM
Saturday
9 AM to Noon

Fiscal Reality

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have increased the number and frequency of fundraising events and are grateful for the continued generosity of our wide circle of supporters. We apply for grants when appropriate. We ask our patrons to dig a little deeper.

With many donation requests from nonprofit organizations throughout the world, we all face difficult choices about which we will support and how we might adjust our own budgets to encompass our charitable giving. I hope you will give special

Raising Funds and Friends

by Patti Wharton

As Trustee chair, I have discovered that raising funds for the library is a great way to raise friends for the library as well. When volunteers work on our fundraisers, they invest themselves in the success of the library. Whether working on our Used Book Sales, biennial Garden Tours or Silent Auctions, they return year after year to lend a hand. And they bring neighbors, relatives and friends with them to work or to participate in the events.

One of the rewards of my office has been to seek out the person to match the task at hand. People are very generous in their attitude toward the Library and in their willingness to take on responsibility whether it be for an hour, a weekly commitment, committee work or trusteeship. Each person who says "yes" understands the success of the library depends on him or her, and in turn they take pride in that success. It is a win-win situation.

The Library raised more than 125 friends to staff the highly successful Garden Tour enjoyed by over 700 patrons. Dozens of these friends have asked to work on the next tour. Businesses and individuals were so creatively generous to our Silent Auction that those attending made it our best Silent Auction ever by bidding \$16,000 for the goods and services offered. The popular Used Book Sale has grown so large that we will have an additional sale in December.

If you haven't been approached to work on any of these events, come forward and volunteer so that you too can join in the fun and the rewards of working for the success of this great Library.

2005 Annual Appeal
reaches \$67,700 toward
goal of \$107,700.

You can still make
your generosity
count in 2005!

Thanks!

Holiday Book Sale



Photo by Leza Colquhoun

On Saturday, December 3, from 9am to 4 pm, the library will hold a holiday book sale of gently used, donated books. We plan to include recent and popular novels, children's books, biographies, travel and art books, and more, plus a selection of good quality paperbacks. So, come join us for a sociable hour or two, and tuck some of these great bargains away for holiday giving. Please remember the Bookworm's food drive and "bring a can" (see page 4).

Summer Reading Program

Forty-six children read 533 books during the summer. Southwest Harbor merchants encouraged these young readers by donating 20 slices of pizza from Maine Pizza and Sub Shop; 13 helium balloons from Carroll Drug Store; 26 ice cream cones from the Quietside Cafe; 15 popsicles from Sawyer's Market; 18 cookies from Little Notch Cafe; 19 hot dogs and sodas from the Downeast House of Dogs; 21 compasses from the Sand Castle; 12 Jumpin' Java "dollars" and 36 tokens from Pirates Cove Adventure Golf.

Periodicals Number 115

Kate McMullin oversees the periodicals collection, almost half of which are donated subscriptions. New this year include Air & Space, Discover, New York Review of Books, Ranger Rick and Rolling Stone. Please share your ideas for future subscriptions with Kate or drop a note in the suggestion box located on the window shelf next to the magazines.

Friends of the Library

The library's trustees and staff offer a hearty thank you to the Friends for their hard work, generosity and dedication to the library. Most recently, the Friends donated a new printer and a much-needed envelope feeder. Without the Friends there would be no plant or book sales, the quilt raffle would be a pleasant memory, and there would be fewer funds to purchase new CDs, sponsor a children's storyteller program, or supply the myriad of extras the Friends donate to the library each year. Speaking of the quilt raffle, this year's winner is Susan Snyder of Bass Harbor. Pat Sweeney, our quilter friend, is already at work on the 2006 quilt.

The Friends' ongoing used book sale in the library is being expanded. Patron David MacDonald is building a six-shelf bookcase to the left of the elevator on the first floor to showcase a selection of gently used hard- and soft-cover books available for purchase.

Please join the Friends at their monthly tea, held on the third Thursday of each month from 1pm-3pm in the front room.

At Home with Minerva

By now, you probably know that Minerva is not a new librarian, but the library's recently installed web-based, statewide cooperative system. The final piece of that system, the Open Inter-Library Loan (ILL) was activated on Tuesday, November 1. Our patrons can now, from their home computers, monitor their own library records and browse the holdings of all the libraries that use the Minerva system. This means that our library patrons can request and borrow items from the 60 libraries on the Minerva system. This is an exciting prospect. The items will be delivered to our library where patrons will collect and return them.

The Minerva web catalog can be accessed either through our website: www.swharbor.lib.me.us or through the Minerva site: <http://minerva.maine.edu> If anyone has questions or needs help with this Open ILL, we will be delighted to get them started.

Check These Out

Library patron Ezra Schreiber-MacQuaid has published two books, *How the Fairies and Princesses Stole Halloween* and *Magnanimous Metamorphosis*. Both are available in Juvenile Fiction, which is appropriate as Ezra is just 13!

The staff recommends: *The Scorpion's Gate* by Richard Clarke, a fictionalized telling of *Against All Enemies*; *Veronica* by Mary Gaitskill, a story about an improbable alliance between two women; *Beasts of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala, a first novel depicting civil war from a child's viewpoint; and Amy Tan's latest, *Saving Fish from Drowning*.

New books on compact disc include *Undead and Unreturnable* by MaryJanice Davidson; *The Colorado King*, a murder mystery set on a secluded island off the coast of Maine by Stephen King; and *The Sunflower* by Richard Paul Evans.

New nonfiction selections include *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and the Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy* by Moises Naim; *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife* by Mary Roach, author of *Stiff*; *The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*; and *Two Lives* by Vikram Seth, a deeply engaging dual biography of his aunt and uncle.

Children's Room

Susan Plimpton's highlight of the summer was watching 10 year old Logan MacDonald introduce his favorite author, Gail Gibbons, to a gathering of 100 people. Her visit was an extraordinary gift from summer residents, John and Kate Briggs of Holiday House. Gail's books are perennial favorites at the library. Check out her latest, *Owls and Dinosaur Discoveries*.

Reader Dog Downeast had a wonderful summer session and a well attended August Afternoon Tea. Kelvin really enjoyed sharing copies of *Down to the Sea* with Mr. Magee by Chris Van Dusen, this year's Reader Dog Book, with his kids. Our thanks to the many people who contributed to Rowing for Reader Dog, which raised \$350 for the books and operating expenses. A recent \$200 donation to the program by Kelvin's human "grandparents" will fund additional early reader books for the library. Each week there are eager readers on the waiting list for the six coveted Reader Dog slots. For more information, please call the library.

Bookworms Holiday Food Drive - The Bookworms, a group of homeschool avid readers, invite you to Bring a Can or other nonperishable goods to the library during December. Last year's food drive was a great success. The Bookworms delivered 21 bags of groceries to the Bar Harbor Food Pantry.



Logan MacDonald, Amos Brown and Summer Libby welcome Gail Gibbons

Expanded Juvenile Section

Who better to name the expanded Juvenile section currently in the planning stages than the patrons who use it? Readers in grades 3-8 are encouraged to submit their ideas to Susan Plimpton by December 22, in person or via snail mail or email (splimpton@swharbor.lib.me.us). The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Port in a Storm book store.

The fiction and nonfiction collections will be displayed together for easy browsing in the reorganized section on the first floor. There'll be comfy furniture with a counter and stools designed for lap top use. Be sure to stop in to see what's planned and give us your idea for a name.

Mark Your Calendar

Sat., December 3, 9am-4pm
Friends' Holiday Book Sale
Wednesday Night Knitters - 6pm

First Monday of each Month
YA Readers - 4pm
(for adults and high school student
who enjoy young adult novels)

Third Thursday of each Month
Friends' Tea - 1pm-3pm

May 13 - Friends' Plant Sale
August 5 & 6
Friends' Used Book Sale

Children's Room Activities

Tuesday Mornings 11:30am
BookWorms
(Homeschoolers
BookWorm group age 10 +)

Wednesday Toddler Storytimes
10am ages 0-3
10:30am ages 4 and 5

Artist of the Month

November
Kathy Hatch/oil paintings &
Lance Grindle/display case
December - Cindy L. Smith
pen & ink drawings/watercolors
January - Jason Brown
acrylic paintings