I have the best challenge each year when I compose this Annual Report - where to start to tell the story of your vibrant and vital community Library. Take a few minutes to read the several reports that detail the multitude of services and programs that your Library provides all year long. It is impressive and, as we often say to our readers, supporters, donors and friends - “We couldn’t do it without you!”

Without the talented and committed staff, the Library would not cultivate the information resources you are looking for - from your recreational needs to your life-long learning curiosity. Your Library resources are on the shelves, in the on-line databases, and in the wide variety of downloadable materials, at your fingertips. If you are looking for something and don’t find it, your Library staff will accept the challenge to provide it for you.

Without the dedicated corps of volunteers - from those serving on the board, from those processing new materials, from those addressing building and grounds needs, to those presenting engaging programs, to those sorting donated books for sale, to those reading shelves and shelving returned collection items - you would not find such a welcoming and bustling Library. And don’t forget, volunteers present engaging programs, share their creativity in the fine and finger arts, pour tea, and untangle thorny technology issues. We have come to say “It takes a village” and our generous villagers provide hours of service that exceed the work schedule of one full-time Library employee.

Your Library was a leader this year celebrating the 100th anniversary of Acadia National, “One Park - One Read”, dedicated programs, and exhibits. These accomplishments reflected our collective pride in our town and the benefits we share living here. The Library staff and board are investing their energy and effort for the next 100 years in this place.

These reports eloquently testify that the Southwest Harbor Public Library is so much more “than a place where people of all ages and backgrounds come to improve literacy, explore new ideas and pursue lifelong learning interests.” It is a vibrant, beloved, and respected institution where readers share their talents and creativity, where readers share their commitment and dedication to each other, and together we preserve a place where all ideas are welcome.

Take pride in your participation this past year that resulted in the great stories and accomplishments reported in this Annual Report. We are all in this together and we couldn’t do it without you!

See you in the Library!

Charles V. Stanhope, Chair, Board of Trustees
2016 was the year Southwest Harbor Public Library was awarded its sixth Five Star rating from Library Journal, the highest they give! Only about 1% of public libraries in the country receive this top recognition.

2016 was also the year of Acadia National Park’s 100th birthday. The Library was a proud Centennial Partner and embraced the responsibility fully. Throughout the year we offered a wide range of Centennial exhibits and programs for all ages.

Our Library initiated the “One Park – One Read” community reading program and encouraged other libraries in the Acadia National Park area to participate. A community read gets everyone in one area to read and discuss the same book. We offered three titles, all centered on ANP in one way or another. All of the libraries offered programs and generated lively book discussions.

The book, Art of Acadia was published. It is a collection of works inspired by ANP. Several pieces from the art collection of the Library are featured in the book.

The Library’s annual Women’s History Project offered three different talks about the women and the art that have been influenced by ANP.

We also learned about the history of the Park, its volunteers, and the growth of Friends of Acadia. We were taken on a tour of MDI and the Park through historical postcards. We heard about the story behind the founding of the Wild Gardens of Acadia. We stepped back millions of years and assembled the geological makeup of MDI and the Park. We celebrated ANP with a fast-moving slide/talk presentation by PechaKucha MDI. We learned about our new National Monument and how the Park began as one itself. Through a documentary film, we met George Dorr, the founder of ANP. And the theme of our summer literacy camp for young readers concentrated on the Park’s natural history and activities.


All of this caused me to reflect on the Library’s past and how far we have come in the last 100 years.

Like the Park, the Library began with donations. Ours were books, not land, but the foresight was the same. Annie Sawyer Downs encouraged book donations from the summer people in much the same way that George Dorr encouraged land donations from the summer people.

In 1888, an association was formed for the purpose of raising funds for a permanent building – officially known as the Southwest Harbor Public Library. The public in our name is very important to us. Like the Park – we are here for everyone. Land was purchased, a building was designed, and a stone wall was built. The Holmes Room and the stone wall are all original. The Library is the oldest building in downtown whose use has not changed.

Like the Park, we had a modest beginning. And like the Park, we had a force of supporters who saw the value of securing a place for all to enjoy equally.

We now offer services no one could have dreamed of 100 years ago. Downloadable music, books, audio books; you can borrow DVDs, Kindles, laptops and iPads. We offer programs of all kinds for all ages, tech help, tax help, WiFi, computer use. And yes, we still circulate books, around 65,000 a year.

Like the Park, we may not be the biggest but we are one of the busiest.

And like the Park, it is our patrons, our supporters, our trustees, our volunteers, and our staff that keep us vibrant and relevant.

Candy Emlen, Director
A record high Annual Appeal exceeding $160,000 and expenses just under the $360,000 budget were the major factors in a budget surplus of about $38,000. This money will be used for a Strategic Plan, the Summer Story Camp Coordinator position, to provide seed money for a Development position, and to enhance the Library’s “Rainy Day Fund”.

ENDOWMENT
Over $40,000 of 2016 donations plus 10.8% investment returns resulted in a balance of $3,130,082, $237,851 more than the previous year even after using $114,335 for operations. Our investments continue to successfully grow with annual gifts and a twelve year real (after-inflation) return of 6.1%, 2.1% more than we withdraw.

Jim Vekasi, Treasurer

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER
BUDGET
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You Provide the Strength – Thank You!
The Library is fortunate to have the love and support of this community. Patrons, volunteers, supporters and community businesses help to keep the Library fiscally and mentally strong.

A special thank you is extended to several organizations that support unique projects. The Hattie A. and Fred C. Lynam Trust have made several donations over the years in support of the Summer Reading Camp helping children to strengthen their literacy skills. L.S. Robinson Company supports interesting and well-attended adult programs and the Atwater Kent Foundation along with donations collected during programs has underwritten new stackable chairs and rolling carts for these programs. The Rose and Samuel Rudman Library Fund, Maine Arts Commission, Bar Harbor Bank and Trust and First National Bank all made donations to support the Summer Reading Showtime where children become film actors and star in their favorite books.

In addition, several private individuals have given special gifts to support the Library’s Digital Archive Project. This historic photograph project has taken many years of work but is very close to becoming an on-line resource anyone can access from their computer. The Maine Community Foundation, the family of Meredith Hutchins, Douglas and Pamela Diehl, Evilo Drew, Lynne Birlem and most recently the Knight Foundation along with several volunteers all contributed to this immense effort. A special presentation and party celebrating the Digital Archive Online Project will take place on Sunday, July 9, 2017. When you see what this project encompasses you will be impressed and amazed at the historic resource this Library and these generous donors have made available to our community.

Fundraising events to benefit the Library this coming season include our annual Mother’s Day Sale with baked goods and other fine gifts for you or your Mom and the Spring Plant Sale both taking place in May.

A Library Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction will take place at the Claremont Hotel on Thursday, June 22nd. There will be a cash bar, appetizers and a small silent auction of fun things to do and learn. Contact the Library for reservations.

A Celebration of Art auction will open three weeks earlier this year on July 10th, with all art available for purchase at full price as a “Buy it Now” or take your chances by placing a bid. A Celebration of Art Party will take place Sunday, July 30th. In addition to both the Paperback and Giant Book Sales, the kiosk full of books for purchase will again be available this summer on the front lawn and at the new coffee shop behind the Library. See you at the Library!

Pepper Cwik, Development Chair
2016 HIGHLIGHTS - WINTER
Having the Town clear snow from the parking lot has worked out well. Also having the Town mark the parking spaces as short term, two hours to 20 minutes depending on the space, has eliminated the all-day parking that had been occurring. Hiring a local person rather than a contractor to shovel the sidewalks has gone well and with a considerable cost savings.

The floor in the attic above the Juvenile Room and the stacks was completed along with a walkway to access the rest of the attic. The books stored in the second floor “chair closet” were processed by Carol Nelson and Linda Hayward with most of the books being disposed of.

The expensive to maintain Holmes room lighting was replaced with LED lights. The LED are also far more efficient and less costly to operate. This is part of a long term plan to replace all the lighting in the Library with cheaper to run and maintain LED lighting.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS - SPRING
The second floor chair closet was completely cleaned out and the shelving units were disassembled. The shelves were reassembled in the new attic storage space over the juvenile room. Then material from the closet and elsewhere was put on the shelves.

The spring clean-up day on May 14 went well with a sufficient number of volunteers. A new layer of chips was added to the Children's Garden area at the end of May.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS - SUMMER
In the Children's garden two wooden picnic tables were disposed of and three new picnic tables with metal frames and plastic tops were assembled.

Three bids were received for doing the roof of the older single floor part of the library and the second floor part of the library. The low bid of $28,000 from S. C. Crawford was accepted by the executive committee. Crawford’s work on two jobs for the Town of Southwest Harbor was highly praised by the Town Manager.

The automatic generator failed to start during a September power outage due to lack of fuel. Upon refueling it was found that a circuit breaker on the exterior of the unit had been switched off. The broken panel cover that exposed the breaker to tampering was screwed onto the unit to minimize tampering. A refueling schedule with the propane supplier was put in place. Also a generator maintenance contract was been entered into.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS - FALL
The conversion of the upstairs chair closet to the archive room has been completed with George Soules installing shelving and moving the digital archive material there. Archive book material from the work room’s “dark room” will be moved there also. The book scanner stored in the Clark Room was moved to attic storage.

In September an AED unit (automatic heart defibrillator) was installed next to the Village Green entrance door opposite the circulation desk. Training to use it is ongoing.

In October a 35 page draft emergency plan for the library was developed by modifying similar plans from other libraries. The plan includes emergency evacuation plan building diagrams to be posted at exits, a state fire code requirement. The emergency plans will continue to be worked on in 2017.

The roofing contractor got behind in his work so the roof was not replaced as scheduled in November. It is now scheduled for the spring 2017. Braun will check the attics for roof leaks during each significant rain storm or snow melt event until the roof is replaced. Temporary repairs will be made if necessary.

The fall clean-up day on November 11 went well with a sufficient number of volunteers.

In December the automatic generator would not start in exceptionally cold weather. A low power heater for the battery and carburetor was installed to prevent the cold start problem in the future.

Duane Braun, Building and Grounds

Building Design Committee Report

Following discussions with staff, Board, and community members in 2015 and 2016, the Building Design Committee hired a design/build team of Fraser Associates Architects and E. L. Shea Builders and Engineers to further interview staff and prepare schematic design alternatives for potential building modification. The team has prepared two alternatives addressing the key issues of staff space, program space, and restrooms. After considerable discussion, the Board decided to undertake a facilitated strategic planning process incorporating a larger group of stakeholders to insure that all views and ideas are on the table and that the highest needs are being addressed. Once this process has been completed, the Board will consider the appropriate next steps for the building proposals.

Jim Vekasi
Chair, Building Design Committee
In 2016, volunteers signed in for over 1900 hours of service to the Southwest Harbor Public Library. This is up from 2015’s almost 1500 hours, which may indicate that the library met the goal of having volunteers do a better job of signing-in. It still does not reflect the number of hours actually spent volunteering for the library. A few areas missing from the count include:

- The 20 people and 5 businesses that contributed to the Pumpkin Festival
- The hours that Board members spend at meetings and working on library business
- The wonderful Tea Ladies (Pat Sweeney, Kathy Saunders, Sarah Fraley, Leza Colquhoun, Dot Mead, Ida Smallidge)
- The people who sort the used books, pack them up, move them (at least twice!), and man the sales
- The special few who work on the Digital Archive (Charlotte Morrill and George Soules in particular)
- The people who scan items for the Digital Archive (Carol Nelson, Vesta Kowalski)
- The woman (Brenda Fletcher) who helps keep the Library website up-to-date
- The people who work at the Plant Sale and those who donate plants
- The bands that provide music for special library events
- The patrons who attend talks and then help rearrange the furniture and put away the chairs
- The AARP folks who helped with tax returns

Nancy Weingarten has stepped down from being head of the Used Book Sales and Mary Anne Mead and Candy Emlen have put together a committee of 6-8 experienced volunteers to take over that responsibility. Their enthusiasm is palpable: they have already come up with new ideas to make the sorting go more smoothly. The Board extends sincere thanks to Nancy for her many years of service to the Library through the Used Book Sales and Christmas Sale. Notice it takes a committee to replace her.

Four MDI High School students completed their Community Service hours at the Library. A larger group had planned to come do work on the Library grounds, but were rained out.

In a way, most of the speakers who present the evening programs are Library Volunteers. They are not paid for their time, and they certainly provide a valuable service to the Library.

This report would not be complete without mentioning Duane and Ruth Braun. Between them, they logged more than 275 hours repairing and maintaining the library. They also host at most of the parties.

Below is a rough breakdown of those hours that are recorded, or estimated by the staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Processing</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Worms</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Babies</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean-up Days</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Teas</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Desk &amp; ILL</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. (unspecified)</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day Sale</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader Dog</td>
<td>166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelf reading</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelving</td>
<td>292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Projects</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Story Camp</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striping</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Support</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used Book processing</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website design &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeding</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s History Project</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2345</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Linda Hayward, Volunteer
When I look back over the year I am struck by the stream of creativity that flows through our library every day. Volunteers willing to share their time and talents come together with musicians, teachers, and performers of all kinds to create programs that inspire and engage kids in the practice of literacy skills. The more we learn about how kids learn the more committed we become to connecting kids to the arts.

We kicked off the summer with a project called Thoughts on Books where outgoing 4th graders recommended their favorite books to incoming 4th graders. Brittany Parker and Andrew Simon of the Barn Arts Collective coached and filmed the kids in collaboration with Pemetic teacher Robin Sattler. At the evening event, the house was packed, the applause riotous and the summer reading sign ups were over the top.

Again in collaboration with the Barn Arts Collective and their summer residency program our seven week Family Concert Series offered professional singers, dancers, poets and original music inspired by Mount Desert Island. We had visits from four island museums and took field trips to the park, museums and the Criterion Theater. Our Summer Story Camp kids created a musical based on the book Mama Don’t Allow by Thatcher Hurd.

Local businesses offered great rewards for kids in our summer reading program who kept a journal of their reading and came to the library once a week.

In celebration of the centennial of Acadia National Park we collaborated with artist Mike Duffy to create a local map of activities and a fun book list to go with it. Hundreds of these were given out to visiting families.

Throughout the year we offer weekly programs for babies, toddlers, and homeschoolers, Reader Dog and Café Book for after school visits, holiday celebrations and visits with local authors to consistently bring families and their young readers to the library. Amanda delivers books and story times to one medical center and two home daycare centers each month.

Each year our programs grow and we try new ideas, but our goal remains the same; that no child within our reach will slip through the cracks and that each child will have the literacy skills need to succeed in life. The library is full of programs for infants up to early teens that serve this goal. But there is more to the picture. I believe that by working with other community organizations; by meeting, talking and planning with them we can become true partners and create a literacy safety net for our kids. Working with partners to discover, define and deepen the roles we each play in the development of literacy for community children is the challenge ahead of us and essential to the mission of this library.

Susan Plimpton, Childrens Librarian
Pemetic students promote reading with their suggestions

The Mardi Gras Summer Story Camp registration party

Artist Mike Duffy drew a special activity map for the Library

The home-school students show off their marionettes

Carving pumpkins at the Pumpkin Festival

The Barn Arts Collective performs

Book recommendations by Pemetic 4th graders

Hope Lewis entertains during a summer storytime

Summer Story Campers visit photographer J.K. Putnam’s studio

Abbe Museum educator George Neptune with kids at the Library

Monarch butterfly release

A young dragon picks a book at Trick or Treat for Books

Pemetic students promote reading with their suggestions
May 6 - 13, 2017, Library hours. Buy your Mom something special at the MOTHER’S DAY SALE. More added each day including baked goods!

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8-noon. Buy all your spring flowers at the ANNUAL PLANT SALE.

Thursday, June 22, 2017 DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION at Claremont Hotel Reserve early, seats are limited.

Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16, 2017, 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 30, 2017, 5:30-7 pm, A CELEBRATION OF ART Artist and Community Reception. Enjoy the art of our talented community artists and plan to bid often or better yet, BUY IT NOW!

July 10 – August 30, 2017, A CELEBRATION OF ART extended silent auction to benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library. Enter a bid for your favorite artwork or BUY IT NOW so you can take it home today.

Saturday & Sunday, August 5 & 6, 2017, 9 am-5 pm, GIANT USED BOOK SALE Thousands of books including fiction, non-fiction, puzzles, children's books, paperbacks and MORE at great prices for your reading pleasure.

For More Information, Contact the Southwest Harbor Public Library 207-244-7065 • www.swharbor.lib.me.us
Wednesday, April 12, 2017, Poets Bearing Witness in an Age of Polarization
Speaking Truth to Power with Crow Suncloak, Diana Newman, Paul Weis, and Robert Shetterly

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, On the Edge: Jeff Dobbs film, written by Matinicus author and columnist Eva Murray, starring Dennis Damon and featuring paintings by Phillip Steel

Thursday, April 20, 2017, Library Tea

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, National Poetry Month – Open Mic with featured poet Anne Britting Oleson

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, Acadia Family Center – Spring Speaker Series – second event Dick Dimond M.D. Addiction IS a Brain Disease


Wednesday, May 3, 2017, Acadia Family Center – Spring Speaker Series – third event Developmental Implications of Addiction talk by Dan Johnson, PhD.

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, Vaxxed – controversial documentary presented by Dick Atlee

Wednesday, May 10, 2017, Acadia Family Center – Spring Speaker Series – final event talk by Dan Johnson, PhD., Developmental Implications of Addiction


Tuesday, May 16, 2017, Statesman: George Mitchell and the Art of the Possible book talk by Douglas Rooks

Saturday, May 20, 2017, Annual Plant Sale – Library Fundraiser


Saturday, June 10, 2017, Barbara Strubell – Artist’s Reception

Tuesday, June 20, 2017, The Geologic Evolution of Mount Desert Island with Duane and Ruth Braun**

Thursday, June 22, 2017, Claremont Dinner & Silent Auction **

Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Art Paine and The Building of the Dory “Rose”


Tuesday, July 9, 2017, The Digital Archive Goes On Line – Presentation with Charles Morrill and George Soules

Tuesday, July 11, 2017, A Special Evening with George Mitchell**


Tuesday, July 18, 2017, How to Recreate a Masterpiece talk by local artist, Judy Taylor

Thursday July 20, 2017, Kneisel Hall Chamber Concert

Tuesday, July 25, 2017, Master of Suspense, Tess Gerritsen, at the Library

Sunday, July 30, 2017, 2017 Celebration of Art Reception

Saturday-Sunday August 5-6, 2017, Giant Used Book Sale to Benefit the Library

Wednesday, August 8, 2017, Dr. Stephen W. Kress and the Puffin Project

Tuesday, August 15, 2017, Charles Kowalski Book Talk Mind Virus

Tuesday, August 22, 2017, A Special Evening with Christina Baker Kline – Library Fundraiser**

Tuesday, August 29, 2017, Ann Judd and the Charlotte Rhodes Park and Butterfly Garden


Tuesday, September 26, 2017, What’s so Special About Chekhov? Chekhov Festival Event with the Barn Arts Collective

Friday, September 29, 2017 Chekhov Film Festival with the Barn Arts Collective

** Preregistration Required