

Fall/Winter 2021



SWAN'S ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

Science and Art for Kids

Tidepool animals with Peter Petraitis



Mushroom identification with Cynthia Baker



Seaweed performance artists Felix & Auden



*Top: Wyatt & Lyons with clay mushrooms
Below: Seaweed art w/Laurie Fariey, Liz Awalt, Niamh, Mason & Boston*



Nathan Allard: Creating Art with Natural Materials

We were thrilled with children's summer program, "The Natural World Around Us." We met on eight Mondays from July 5 to August 23. We began with half an hour outdoors of science presented by experts following by an art project organized by **Jessica DeFrenn** on the Internet porch.

Most of our experts were drawn from the Swan's Island community - **Erika Rhile** on marine mammals, **Peter Petraitis** on tidepools and seaweeds, **Cynthia Baker** on mushrooms, **David Bailey** and **Dave Myers** on geology, and **Jessica Harrington** on botany. Our two "outside" experts were **Steve Valleau**, master bird carver from the Wendell Gilley Museum and **Nathan Allard** on creating art with natural materials. Nathan also did a program for adults.

Continued on page 3

Sneak Peak of “Building for the Future”



Drawing by Laurie Farley

In 2022, the SIES Board of Trustees will start an endowment campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to develop a fund that will offset major expenses related to maintaining our building and to ensure the library celebrates not only its 10th anniversary, but also its 50th and 100th.

We will be asking the community to help us “**Build for the Future**” by purchasing an engraved, personalized brick (or bricks). They can be engraved with family, pet or boat names, in honor of or in memory of. The bricks will be used to create a path on the street-facing side of the building leading from the parking lot to the Internet porch, which is currently covered by gravel (see lovely drawing by **Laurie Farley**).

We anticipate that the bricks will cost \$150, with approximately \$100 or more going into the endowment fund and \$50 or less paying for the engraving. All other costs related to the project will be paid for from the SIES operating budget.

Committee members **Dennis Kranyak** and **Rick Heinrich** are doing extensive research into suppliers and other materials needed for the path and will be overseeing construction. Rick has extensive experience as a landscaper having spent 40 years as a groundskeeper for the Union Endicott School District in New York.

SIES Election Results

The annual meeting of the Swan’s Island Educational Society* was held on Zoom on Monday, November 8th. The main agenda item was the election of board members. Terms were expiring for three board members: **Nancy Davis**, **Siobhan Ryan**, and **Wesley Staples**. All three agreed to be nominated to serve another three-year term and were re-elected unanimously. The board elected the following as officers: **Carol Petraitis**, President; **Laurie Farley**, Vice President; **Jill Trask**, Treasurer; and **Kathleen LeMoine**, Secretary.

We had one significant change to the board in September when **Julie MacDonald** stepped down. As chair of the building committee, Julie lent her myriad talents to us for many years. But new responsibilities in her life, including her election as Town Treasurer, left her overcommitted. We are grateful for all her help over the years. The board elected **Jerry Goto**, a new year-round resident, to serve out

the remainder of Julie’s term. As luck would have it, Jerry has skills in the area of building maintenance, and he is also taking on the role of building committee chair.

* Note: The Swan’s Island Educational Society (SIES) became a non-profit in 1972, “to establish a free-lending library, a museum and other educational and cultural projects for the benefit of Swan’s Island, Maine.”

Board of Trustees 2021 – 2022

Nancy Davis
Laurie Farley, Vice President
Jerry Goto
Jessica Harrington
Jeanne Hoyle, Ex-officio
Dennis Kranyak
Kathleen LeMoine, Secretary
Carol Petraitis, President
Siobhan Ryan
Wesley Staples
Caitlin Trafton
Jill Trask, Treasurer

Continued from page 1

The children shared their artistic creations with parents, grandparents, siblings and friends at the culminating art show on August 17. A smaller show of the children's birds and nests was on view through October 11. Jessica's creativity and planning resulted in an impressive array of pieces at the display.

Most of our board members volunteered at least once to make sure the program ran smoothly and several of the older kids helped with the younger children including: **Chi Chi Chao**, **Eva Rhile**, and **Fionn Stinson**. Guest artists, **Liz Awalt** and **Peter Petraitis**, filled in for Jessica. We are already thinking about summer 2022!!!

Dollywood Comes to Swan's Island

Actually, it's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library that is coming to Swan's Island. This amazing program, funded by the Dollywood Foundation, sends a book each month to children from birth to age five in communities that have signed up with the program.

Dolly Parton's father, who did not read or write, was the inspiration for the Imagination Library. Here's how Dolly put it:

"Before he passed away, my Daddy told me the Imagination Library was probably the most important thing I had ever done. I can't tell you how much that meant to me because I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy."

Through the efforts of **Chelsea Riedel**, Swan's Island is now part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The first books are due to arrive in November.

Chelsea was inspired by conversations with **Katelynn LeMoine** after the birth of her baby Bresdin. After getting the administrative end of things figured out, Chelsea prevailed with an assist from the Swan's Island Educational Society.

All the Dollywood Foundation requires is that the local communities help cover the costs of shipping the books. Chelsea has raised enough funds for at least five years of books for Island children – around \$1,300.

Children age out when they turn five, but as new babies or new residents arrive, they will be able to join the program. Besides being in the right age range, the only requirement is that the child is a year-round resident. Signing up for the program is very easy. Just visit www.imaginationlibrary.org and follow the simple prompts.

Thank you so much, Chelsea, for bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Swan's Island.



Chelsea reading to Charlotte

Fall and Winter Programming

As concerns about the pandemic lessen, the Library looks forward to welcoming the community into the building. We are developing programming for the fall and winter months, including reviving the idea of a cribbage tournament. We are also inviting groups back into the building for meetings. The Library is following state guidelines for COVID, which include wearing masks when in public indoor spaces. Please be in touch with Library Director **Jeanne Hoyle** or Program Committee members, **Laurie Farley** and **Caitlin Trafton**, if you would like to participate or if you have ideas to share.

A Note from the Board President

Over the past few months, we have been grateful to once again have programming for children, movie nights and more open hours. Children's art and science Mondays over the summer were a huge hit, as were Maili and Iver's Friday movie nights. As we look to the future, I am proud that the SIES board will be launching an initiative to establish an endowment fund. Our approach – seeking community support by asking you to purchase personalized engraved bricks – aims to make our needs and your contributions tangible and to re-energize our commitments to the Library. Throughout the COVID crisis, the Library has remained a critical part of our community, and the efforts of our volunteers and staff were largely responsible for this success. I hope you will consider making a generous donation to ensure our continued vitality. We appreciate your support.

Carol Petraitis

