

# SWAN'S ISLAND LIBRARY NEWS

*Spring 2023*

## Upgrading the Internet Porch

We created a wish list during the planning and construction of the new library. The last item on the list was building an internet porch with 24/7 access. The porch is currently a large three-season room with electricity and seating. Large windows on three sides are screened in the warmer months and filled with plexiglass in the colder months. The internet porch also provides egress from the building in case of fire or other emergencies. Though initially unexpected, the internet porch gets almost as much use as the library building. The board has submitted a grant to the Stephen and Tabitha King to make upgrades to the Internet Porch. If successful, we will:

Replace the storm windows and door. After 10+ years, neither is in good shape. Upgrading from plexiglass to glass with built-in screens will extend the use of the porch during the shoulder seasons, improve the comfort of patrons using the porch, help keep the elements out during rain and snow storms (which in turn will allow us to use more functional furniture, i.e., not patio furniture), and, finally, will extend the useful life of the internet porch.

Our building committee (special thanks to Allen Harrington) has identified a contractor, Newport Glass, a family-owned business located in central Maine that has previously worked on the island. and we have a very reasonable estimate for the 13 bays and one storm door. Installing rolling slider windows with full screens would allow the windows to be open or closed at any time of year and eliminate the need for seasonal change over.

Upgrade the furniture in the internet porch. We are also seeking funds to upgrade the furniture. The furniture we currently have is standard patio quality. The tables have uneven surfaces (filigreed) and are difficult to use for art projects (which is where most of our kids' art programs take place) and also for anyone using the tables as a writing surface. In addition, the chairs are bulky and showing signs of wear and tear. We have asked for funds to purchase two sturdy school-grade art tables, 12 rust-resistant stackable metal chairs, and a stainless-steel metal bookcase for use in art projects and other storage.



## Paving the Way to the Future

Our effort to make the path to the internet porch handicapped accessible while raising an endowment for the building is off to a great start. To date we have 126 brick orders for donations of \$20,665 and 7 plaque orders with donations of \$11,500, for a grand total of \$32,165 in donations. Of those funds \$20,000 has been invested in U.S. Treasury I-bonds. Our long-term goal is to have an endowment that will be sufficient to pay for building upkeep and maintenance well into the future. A grant recently submitted to the Maine Community Foundation would cover the remaining costs of the bricks we need to complete the project. We should learn if we were successful in this grant application around June 1st.

We will continue selling and installing bricks until the path is completed. Once it is finished, we will have a handicapped accessible path to the internet porch that will be safer for everyone.

The first order of plaques arrived in the fall. They are more beautiful than we imagined. Installation of plaques on the quarry granite blocks that line the path will begin over Memorial Day weekend.



# A SUMMER OF MAGIC

*This summer will not only be magical for children, we also have exciting plans for adults, teens and tweens.*

## Magic for Elementary School-Age Children

We are very excited to again be offering 7 weeks of programming for children on Saturdays at the Library. The theme will be “A Summer of Magic.” Each session will start with a story circle, followed by an art project led by Jessica DeFrenn. Each week will have a theme. In no particular order we will explore mermaids and mermen, dragons, fairies, unicorns, wizards and elves.

There will be two sections: one for pre-K to grade 2 (must be age 5) from 9am to 10:30am, and the second for grades 3 to 5 from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The program will run from Saturday, July 8 to Saturday, August 19. The concluding art show will feature the children’s work at a date to be decided.

## Tweens and Teens

Twice a month tweens and teens (ages 11-14) will be exploring the island and learning a bit of island history. A summer finale will feature a book that’s been made into a movie to be enjoyed during a “lock-in” (an overnight) at the library. High school biology teacher Erika Rhile and school librarian Siobhan Ryan will be coordinating. Details will be available soon.

## Summer Reading Bingo

Children of all ages can participate in our summer reading challenge. Using a bingo card – available in the library starting June 26 – each square on the bingo card will represent a different reading challenge. Get all the squares in a row, and you’ve got bingo. Show your bingo to someone in the library and get your coupon for a prize. Prizes will be available at various locations on the island.

## Summer Evenings at the Library: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, July 11 at 7:00 pm

25+ Years of Intertidal Research on Swan’s Island  
Peter Petraitis, Steve Dudgeon and Erika Rhile will share highlights of their 25+ years of doing intertidal research on the island, which has resulted in numerous scientific publications and presentations. They will answer such pressing questions as, “Where have all the mussels gone?” Their presentation will prepare you to accompany them on a walk in the field to be scheduled on a separate date and time.

### Tuesday, July 18 at 7 p.m.

*Gracie and Sullivan: The Story of a Lightkeeper’s Child*

Fabric artist Elaine O’Neil will present *Gracie and Sullivan*, a children’s book that chronicles the Eagle Island childhood of Elaine’s grandmother Gracie, whose father was the last resident keeper of the Eagle Island lighthouse. Elaine wrote this chronicle with Gay Bogard (her mother) and illustrated it with her art, which is imbued with her own Maine childhood. She will share examples of her art and reflect on the ways in which that art continues to be inspired by her childhood in rural Maine and, now, her summers in Hancock.

### Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m.

*Two Places on Earth: Color Photographs*  
by Chan Chao

Island summer resident Chan Chao will present highlights from his 2022 collection, *Two Places on Earth* (Nazraeli Press), which juxtaposes color photographs of UN peacekeepers in Cyprus and female prisoners in Peru in order to engage how the humanity of these individuals has “been shaped by global forces and personal choices.” *Two Places on Earth* is his fourth book.



# OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTS OUR CHILDREN

## New!!! After-School Children's Programming



Younger group working on painting a mix of their clay art and stress toys.

The winter children's program at the library went splendidly! In early November through mid-April, we had two groups, grades K-4 and grades 5-8. Both met twice a month at the library and explored different themes and media. We used clay to make miniature foods, created our own stress toys, learned about abstract paper art, made fantasy maps, and more!

Each group met for an hour and fifteen minutes, with 40 minutes dedicated to art and 25 minutes allocated to look at books at the library and catch up with friends. One factor that helped draw kids in was that the school bus dropped them off at the library right after school, something parents really appreciated. Our turn out was very good with an average of 8 kids (and as many as 12) for each program day. It was a great time to make art and also have time in the library.

### **Tuesday, August 8 at 7 p.m.**

A Reading by Poet Ellie O'Leary  
Ellie O'Leary, Poet Laureate of Massachusetts, will read from her 2020 poetry collection *Breathe Here* (North Country Press) and her 2023 memoir *Up Home Again*, which chronicles how a trip back to Maine re-engages both the beauty and the loss that defined her girlhood in Freedom. O'Leary skillfully engages her audience, drawing perhaps on what she has learned as a teacher, a radio show host, and the Education Director of the Gloucester Writers Center. Her work is celebrated by island poet Gary Rainford.

### **Tuesday, August 15 at 7 p.m.**

"Marking Lives: COVID-19 Community Art Project" by Elizabeth Awalt  
Concord-based (and Swan's Island summer resident) artist Elizabeth Awalt will address the genesis and legacy of a project she launched within the visual arts community commemorating lives lost to COVID-19. She invited other artists to render works with at least 1,000 marks to represent 1,000 lives lost. Artists posted their works on social media at #markinglivescovid19. The exhibition, "Remembering Together," was at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; the catalog from this exhibition is currently on sale.

### **Tuesday, August 22 at 7 p.m.**

"Shakespeare in a Box of Wonders" by Pamela Macfie  
Join Shakespeare scholar Pamela Macfie in a hands-on Shakespeare experiment that is sure to make you love the bard, even if you (like Professor Macfie) HATED Shakespeare in high school. Come prepared to be, as Shakespeare would put it, "translated" out of your ordinary identity into something inspiring laughter if not magic. Costumes, props, and scripts will be distributed for your instruction and delight. This workshop was a long-running favorite among Macfie's students at Sewanee, the Sewanee School of Letters, and British Studies at Oxford.



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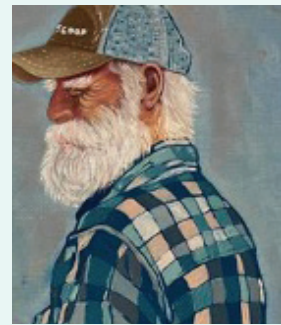
## Your Donations are Having a Direct Impact

We were able to add the children's winter programming with funds donated to the Wayne Lemoine Legacy Fund. Since its inception in November 2022, donations have totaled \$10,055. Those donations funded a new program for children this winter, and will support this summer's expanded children's programming, along with the purchase of library materials for young people. The generosity of our community is having a direct impact on our children throughout the year—something in which we can all take pride.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, an extravaganza, "Spring Fling," organized by Jenn Sytsma and Missy Henton (who brought us the Grown Up Prom in the fall of 2022) will be raising fun and funds for the Wayne Lemoine Memorial Fund supporting expanded children's programs at the library. Join us at the Odd Fellows Hall on Saturday, May 27 at 7pm. And if you can't make it, there is always an option of donating to the fund with the enclosed mailer or on our website. The outpouring of generosity in remembrance of Wayne is enriching many lives.

### About the Wayne Lemoine Legacy Fund

The Wayne Lemoine Legacy Fund honors the spirit of a son of Swan's Island. Wayne's untimely death at age 63 in January 2021 left a hole in the hearts of many. Wayne was a part of the magic that is Swan's Island, and there was a special place in his heart for children. The fund supports everything we offer to children—a brand new afterschool art club, summer programming that combines learning and art, and a wide array of materials for children including books, movies, toys, computer games and more.



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**Support our vision of the future**