



Summer 2012  
Volume 9, Issue 2

# Northeast Harbor Library

Serving the Towns of Mount Desert and Cranberry Isles

## An Open Thank You Note To Those Who Support the Library

By: Jennifer Judd-McGee

My husband Sam and I moved back home to Northeast Harbor from Portland with our two children a little less than two years ago. We'd been living in Portland since before the kids were born. We've always been active public library users, but often found it challenging to be enthusiastic in Portland, due to limited hours, budget cuts, long wait times for newer books (a year, in some cases!) and tired facilities at our local branch. Our old elementary school only had the funds for a librarian a half a day a week, so the school library was a bit of a sad place, too.

So imagine our collective joy when we were immediately welcomed at the Northeast Harbor Library as a new family in town. What started as a quiet social and community building connection for our family quickly bloomed into a full-fledged McGee family fan club for this amazing resource. There are many weeks during the year that one or more of us is at the library almost every day. Other families might want to challenge us to a duel for saying this, but I venture to say we may be children's librarian Eilleen Maclean's #1 fans. She immediately made us all feel welcome, paid attention to what the kids liked to read and offered great suggestions for new books and resources. She is cheerfully there after school with a bowl of popcorn, ready to talk about a great audio book we might enjoy as a family or organizing other activities to



Needle felting workshop projects



Tom Rush Quartet at the First Friday Coffeehouse

engage kids and families. Outside of the children's room, I've also felt enormously thankful of the time Judith and the rest of the staff have taken to get to know my own professional and personal interests and made recommendations and suggestions that are genuinely helpful.

It could be a dark afternoon in January when we all appreciate the warm glow of the welcoming lights. Or a rainy day in the summer when the beautiful gardens greet you as you come in to snuggle up with a book and get dry. Or the place you come to read today's digital edition of the New York Times on the library's iPads.

Or your delight in learning a new trick when new director Brook Minner shares another great little-known library tool for research, or shares her ideas for programming that will strengthen our collective community. Whatever your own reason for being drawn in, I know I speak for many when I say our town is immensely lucky to have this fantastic local resource. The support you all show the library shines through everything about the place, and this family truly appreciates your generosity.

### The McGee family book recommendations...

Jen recommends: *This Life is In Your Hands*, by Melissa Coleman  
Sam recommends: *Abundance*, by Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler  
Ellie (8th grade) recommends: *Out Of My Mind*, by Sharon M. Draper  
Chase (6th grade) recommends: *Chomp*, by Carl Hiaassen  
The whole family recommends: *Okay for Now*, by Gary D. Schmidt (audiobook edition)

# Summer exhibits and events at the library

## Exhibits

**June:** "A Flâneur In Venice" by Carol Shutt

A collection of drawings and paintings inspired by Carol's 2011 trip to Venice. A closing reception is scheduled for Saturday, June 30 at 5pm. Carol Shutt is the art teacher at Mount Desert Elementary School.



**July:** "Little Things"

*An exhibit of little* : not big: small in size: pleasingly small: compact: petite: slight: diminutive: half-pint: pocket-size: pygmy: small: bitty: dinky: mini: miniature: minimized: minute: puny: teeny-weeny:



Miniature glass pitchers

tiny: undersized: wee: stubby: Lilliputian: micro: .... *objects and artworks created by local artists and collected by local residents.* This show is curated by Annette Carvajal.

**August: Portraits by Betsy Flagg Melcher**



Elise Fay Hawtin

A collection of portraits of local residents painted by Betsy Flagg Melcher. The exhibit, curated by Ann Kinney, will feature 25 or more portraits mostly borrowed from private collections. A reception is scheduled for August 6.

## Events for adults

**July 11 at 6pm:** History of Business in NEH with Parker Brown

**July 17 at 6pm:** "Let's Talk About It" book discussion series

**July 18 at 6pm:** Author event: Ann Roberts Rockefeller, *Mr. Rockefeller's Roads*

**July 25 at 6pm:** Author event: Carl Little and Eric Hopkins, *Eric Hopkins: Above and Beyond*

**August 1 at 7pm:** Poetry event: Paul Weiss, Christian Barter, Ellen Lehto, Patricia Ranzoni & Phoebe Milliken

**August 4 at 6pm:** Contra Dance with Big Moose Band at Mount Desert Elementary School

**August 6 time at 5:30pm:** Reception for August Art Exhibit: Betsy Flagg Melcher

**August 8 at 6pm:** Author event: David Rockefeller, Jr., *One Island, One Ocean*

**August 14 at 6pm:** "Let's Talk About It" book discussion series

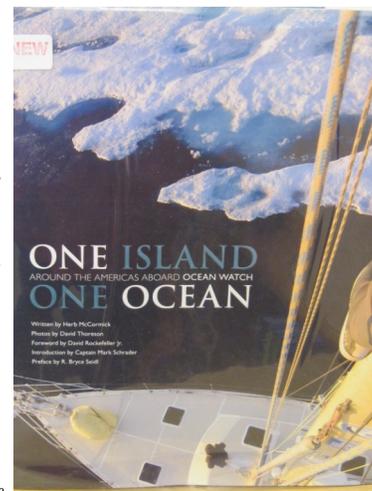
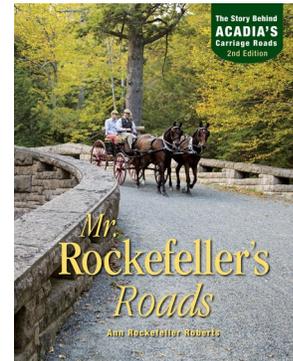
**August 15 at 6pm:** Author event: Daniel Taylor, author of *Empowerment on an Unstable Planet*

**August 21 time at 6:30pm:** Woolies nautical art lecture & reception with Paul Vandekar

**August 22 at 6pm:**

Author event: Mary R. Morgan, *Beginning with an End*

**September 5, time TBA:** Author event: Paul Doiron, *Bad Little Falls*



Detail of a woolie from the library's collection



Wild Animal Stories of Maine: a storytelling event (l to r) Paul Favolise, Don Cote, Floyd Hardison



“Get Crafty At Your Library” series

### Monthly Giving

Did you know that about 50% of the library’s funding comes from private donations? We rely on you to keep the library operating and we want to make it easy to show your support. The library now offers donors the option of automatic monthly giving. For as little as \$5.00 per month, you can help to support the programs, events and resources of the library. It’s easy and safe. If you are interested or would like to sign up, contact Jean Rappaport, 207-276-3333 or jrappaport@nehlibrary.org

### Main Course Sale

On August 9, the Northeast Harbor Library Scholarship Committee will hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Main Course Sale event at Carters Real Estate on Main Street in Northeast Harbor. Last year, this event raised almost \$700.00 for the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in helping out, contact Sarah Contomichalos at donumm@aol.com

Go green! To sign up to get your next Northeast Harbor Library newsletter by email, contact Brook at [bminner@nehlibrary.org](mailto:bminner@nehlibrary.org)

## Summer events for children and their families

**Beginning June 25:** sign up for this summer’s reading program “Dream Big-Read!” Children read books of their choosing, or caregivers read to them, and win prizes!

**Beginning June 26:** LEGO club every Wednesday from 4:00-4:45pm for children ages 7 and older. We’ve got the LEGOs, just bring your imagination!

**Beginning June 28:** Cirra the Reader Dog will be in the Reading Room from 9:00am until 12:00pm on Thursdays. Sign-up at the front desk to read to Cirra.

**July 9 at 10:30am:** Judy Pancoast— Children’s concert

**July 17 at 10:30am & 6pm:** Magician Norman Ng magic workshop at the library followed by an evening magic show at the Neighborhood House

**July 23 at 10:30am:** Conjuring Carroll Balloon Show & Workshop

**July 30 at 10:30am:** MERI marine life program for children

**August 4 at 6pm:** Family Contra Dance with Big Moose Band at MDES

**August 6 at 10:30am:** Juggling workshop for children with Steve Corning

**August 13 at 10:30am:** “Scales & Tales” a hands-on animal workshop with the Chewonki Foundation



Aaron Lichtenstein reading to Cirra and Robin

## Northeast Harbor Library

P.O. Box 279

Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662

[www.nehlibrary.org](http://www.nehlibrary.org)

207-276-3333

## Summer Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9am-6 pm

Wednesday: 9am-7pm

Saturday: 9am-1pm

(9am-5pm in July and August)

From the Chairman of the Board...

On a warm spring evening, I walked down to the Northeast Harbor Library to hear Michael Anderson talk about his 500 mile trek on the Camino de Comostela across Northern Spain. Several of my friends had said they'd be going, but you know how it is, you get home at night and have supper and then – do you really want to go out again? That evening, it turned out, a lot of people did. The Mellon Room was packed. I saw people from all over the Island – old friends from Southwest Harbor, from Bar Harbor, Somesville, Hall Quarry, Otter Creek, Town Hill. We ran out of chairs and had to haul some in from the children's room.

It was a wonderful audience for a wonderful talk, with beautiful slides of quiet villages with cobbled streets and ornate, important-looking town halls; dusty roads through mountains and vineyards; sloping fields. Michael told us about snorers at the hostel; awful blisters; strangers who became best friends, and he talked, too, about the spiritual aspects of the trip: the holiness and history of this path that so many others have walked over a thousand years. How the trail was just like life – you never knew what was coming. It was a moving talk, and, though there were so many of us in the room, it felt intimate.

As I looked around, I thought, and not for the first time, what a wonderful island we live on – full of so many interesting people – and what a wonderful thing a library is, to bring us all together on a quiet spring evening to experience a walk across Northern Spain – in Northeast Harbor!



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