



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

of the NORTHEAST HARBOR LIBRARY

Ruth Jordan Scholarship Award

BACKGROUND

The Northeast Harbor Library established the Ruth Jordan Scholarship in 1987 as a beneficiary of Ruth's estate. In the spirit of Ruth's extraordinary dedication and service to her community, the library awards one Ruth Jordan Scholarship each year to a graduating high school senior who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to and achievements in community service.

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS

- To apply for the Ruth Jordan Scholarship, please submit a paragraph in addition to your Northeast Harbor Library Scholarship application.
- The paragraph will describe how your experiences, skills, and achievements align with Ruth Jordan's extraordinary dedication and service to her community. You may review the biography attached, *Ruth Jordan's Lifelong Commitment to Community Service*, to learn about Ruth's background.
- The library's Scholarship Committee will review applications and select a student to receive the award. The criteria for selection are:
 - The individual is an academically superior student.
 - The student selected demonstrates a deep interest in, exceptional commitment to, and achievements in community service.
- The scholarship award will be disbursed to the awardee in January of the academic year, after the student has submitted official transcripts to the library. **The award is \$500.**
- The student selected as the Ruth Jordan Scholar will be asked to submit a biographical essay and a graduation photo for publication in the library's newsletter and inclusion in the library's Ruth Jordan Scholar album.

AWARD GUIDELINES

- Eligible candidates must be New Applicants for Northeast Harbor Library scholarships.
- Eligible candidates must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- A student may receive only one Ruth Jordan Scholarship Award.
- An award need not be given in a year in which no suitable recipient has been identified.

RUTH JORDAN'S LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE



Ruth Jordan was born in 1900. She grew up in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and graduated from Simmons College at a time when it was unusual for women to further their education. Upon graduation, she moved to Northeast Harbor, where she worked for three generations at S.R. Tracy (Paint Shop).

Ruth had a memorable personality. She was trustworthy and spoke up when she thought something wasn't right. She was an integral part of the community and her friends included people from all walks of life. At her funeral, longtime friend John Adams remarked, "Anyone who met Ruth was touched by her. She possessed so many different qualities, with humor, compassion, strength, wisdom, boundless energy and, above all, an unending interest in people and in the town of Mount Desert."

In addition to Ruth's work at the Paint Shop, she provided accounting services for many of the summer residents. When they arrived each summer, their first stop was a visit to Ruth because she knew everything about the town's goings-on. She was on most of the town's non-profit boards and served in a variety of roles - for the Town Office, Garden Club, Planning Board, Library, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood House, Mount Desert Nursing Association, Medical Center, and Golf Club. Not much was done without Ruth's approval. When she was asked for help, the answer - in her trademark gravelly voice - was nearly always "Yes!"

With her strong connections and friendships in the summer community, Ruth was able to find funding and resources for various needs in the village. Here are three examples:

Northeast Harbor was losing the town doctor because he couldn't make a living in the small community. Once Ruth found out, she raised a \$300,000 endowment fund in just a few days.

The library needed to add on a wing, and John Adams just happened to be in her office when she made a phone call. He recalls that it went something like this: "Paul, we need a new wing on our library." The person on the other end of the line (Paul Mellon) must have asked how much, and Ruth replied, "about \$250,000." She added, "We'll even put your name on it." In that one phone call, the library had their funding for what is now the Mellon Room, a vibrant community resource dedicated to Paul's son Karl.

Kathy (Burr) Adams returned to live in Northeast Harbor after several years out of state. Ruth told her to "go right up to the Nursing Association and tell them that you would be happy to serve on their board of directors." Kathy said she'd think about it. Ruth looked at her and said, "You don't think about it, YOU DO IT!" Ruth got the job done.

Ruth died in 1987 and, in true Ruth fashion, left everything to non-profit organizations. In the village of Northeast Harbor, one will find two plaques commemorating her: one in the hallway of the Town Office meeting room, and the other in the hallway of Mount Desert Nurses Association. Ruth, serving in her many capacities, was the perfect conduit between local and summer residents, champion of community causes, and motivator of others; and has never been replaced.