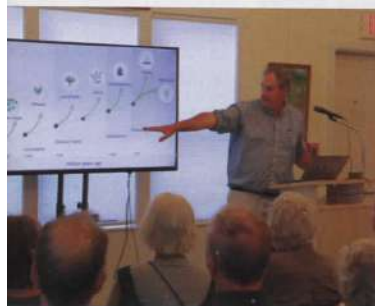


# Northeast Harbor Library

Northeast Harbor Library  
1 Joy Road, PO Box 279  
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662  
(207) 276-3333  
nehlibrary.org



## IMPACT REPORT 2024



Photo by  
Katherine Emery

## A Message From Our Board



"Our community funded library is the leading source for sharing knowledge, information and learning for all ages in Northeast Harbor and other parts of MDI. For 133 years, it has been a treasured resource and thrives due to your continued support and patronage. Our new strategic plan builds on that legacy and sets out a clear and sensible path for our future."

**- Arthur Martinez**

*Chairman of the Board of Trustees*  
Northeast Harbor Library

## Our Board of Trustees

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*Special thanks to Lynn Horowitz and Joelle Nolan, whose terms expired in 2024. Thank you for your service!*

## Guiding Principles

### Our Vision

To be regarded as the heart of the community for learning and connecting.

### Our Mission

To strengthen the community by enlightening, inspiring, and informing people of all ages.

### Our Values

#### **Learning**

Amplify access to learning through all available formats.

#### **Service**

Demonstrate service in all that we do.

#### **Community**

Bring the community together for meaningful shared experiences.

#### **Innovation**

Innovate to improve our services and program offerings.



# A Message From Our Director

"We were thrilled to welcome more people to library programs in 2024. Usage of print and digital books has also increased significantly. Our importance to the community is apparent in both increased usage and the engagement of our many funding partners. We rely on donations to fund more than half of our operations, and we are so very grateful to our many donors. Thanks to our supporters for a very successful year! We look forward to seeing you at the library soon."

## - Amy Wisehart

*Library Director*

Northeast Harbor Library



## Our Staff

### **Daniela Accettura**

Archives, Inter-Library Loan, &  
Circulation Librarian

### **Lelania Avila**

Circulation Substitute

### **Deb Crooks**

Book Sale Coordinator

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### **Kathy Olson**

Circulation Assistant

### **Zachary Taibi**

Programs Coordinator &  
Circulation Librarian

### **Minu Toos**

Children's Assistant

### **Lauren White**

Children's Librarian &  
Children's Materials Cataloger

### **Kate Young**

Cataloger & Circulation  
Librarian

## 2024 Volunteers

### **Elly Andrews**

Floral workshops

### **Chrissy Ashley**

Circ. desk, shelving

### **Emma Ball**

Shelving

### **Megan Ball**

Shelving

### **Chiori Beck**

Shelving

### **Ron Benson**

Book sale

### **Judith Blank**

Shelving

### **Frank Blair**

Shelf reading

### **Diana Brochendorff**

Plant care

### **Maggie Gaddis**

Shelf reading,  
barcoding

### **Amaya Giberson**

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### **Mary Anne Hinkley**

Seed library

### **Gabriella Irazabal**

Book sale

### **Anna Kennedy**

Book sale

### **Hunter Kitt**

Shelf reading,  
barcoding

### **Ellie Lindsay**

Shelf reading,  
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### **Midnight Miller- Rushing**

D&D club

### **Cora Olgyay**

Seed library

### **Alan Rosenquist**

Seed library

### **Jordan Spears**

Shelf reading,  
barcoding

### **Robin Strauss**

Floral workshops



# 2024 By the Numbers

## Circulation

| ITEM                                | 2024   |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Physical Books, DVDs, & Periodicals | 32,030 |
| Cloudlibrary                        | 2,122  |
| Hoopla                              | 3,190  |
| Libby                               | 791    |
| Mango Sessions                      | 779    |
| Museum Passes                       | 47     |

## Services

| ITEM                                     | 2024   |
|--|--------|
| Total Patrons                            | 2,757  |
| New Patrons                              | 387    |
| Public Computer Sessions                 | 775    |
| WiFi Users                               | 6,201  |
| Library Website Sessions                 | 21,324 |
| Archives - Digital Collection Users      | 4,239  |
| Archives: Physical Collection Visit Reqs | 78     |
| Room Use - Reservations                  | 728    |

## Programming

| ITEM                     | 2024  |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Adult Program Attendance | 2,021 |
| Youth Program Attendance | 5,782 |

## From the Archives



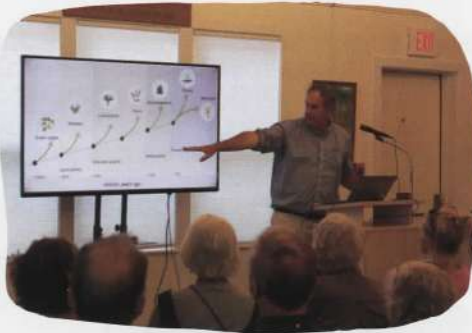
**The Northeast Harbor Library Archives acquires, preserves, and makes accessible primary and secondary works relevant to the history of our island community.** We house town and genealogical records, newspaper clippings, personal and published papers, architectural drawings, photographs, maps and charts, book collections, and deposit collections from the Town of Mount Desert and various organizations on MDI.

**In 2024, we became members of the History Trust,** a regional alliance dedicated to supporting collections and engaging the public with the shared histories of Blue Hill Bay and Frenchman Bay communities. **The Mount Desert Land & Garden Preserve gifted their collection to us,** which is now stored in our basement and can be found on our Digital Archives, including this portrait of Charles K. Savage (left), the creator and original designer of the Asticou Azalea Garden and the Thuya Garden. We are currently processing their digital collections, which will be available online along with thousands of other digitized archives at <https://nehlibrary.org/archives/>





## Adult Programs



In 2024, NEHL spotlighted local artists, poets, and musicians all year round. In the summer, we hosted numerous educational lectures, including NEA Big Read author Kevin Wilson, author and illustrator Blue Butterfield, and ecologist Bill Cullina's presentation *The Remarkable Coevolution of Flowers and Their Pollinators* (left).

We engaged in both familiar and new program partnerships, including with local health organizations, MDI Historical Society, Acadia National Park, Acadia Wildlife Center, Southwest Harbor Public Library, and Jesup Memorial Library.

In addition to our annual Craft Swap in March, we collaborated with the Town of Mount Desert to introduce two new swap programs in the spring: a Tool Swap and a Sports Gear Swap.

Find our upcoming adult programs on our website at <https://nehlibrary.org/adult-events/>

"The library inspires me as a place for community to gather around Big Ideas - some in books, some beyond."

- Leaf-a-Review participant



## Youth & Family Programs



As Mount Desert Elementary School's library, our lively Teen Space and Children's Room buzz with activity all year-round with events like weekly Lego Nights, Wizarding Wednesdays, the annual Valentine's Tea Party, and the coveted Scholastic Book Fair (left).

Of course, our summer was also packed with programs like weekly Outdoor Storytime on the Lawn, a season-long Endangered Animal Scavenger Hunt, and Ranger Read Alouds thanks to Acadia National Park.

Special summer events included a Bubble Party, *Mr. Drew and his Animals, Too* (above), and *Pachamama: Children's Music Show* with Flor Bromle.

Find upcoming youth and family programs at <https://nehlibrary.org/childrens-family-events/>





# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*"As someone who practically grew up at the Northeast Harbor Library through book fairs, LEGO Club, and the sprawling graphic novel selection, being supported by your program makes me feel incredibly grateful for the community I was able to find there...My education truly would not have been possible without your help."*

**- Sig Reinholdt,**  
MDIHS Class of 2024

**We strive to increase our award amount whenever possible.** In 2024, we dispersed \$3,500 checks to applicants who applied for the 2023-24 academic year -- a 32% increase from 2023. 40 students who applied in 2024 have received \$3,600 for the 2024-25 academic year.

In addition to our Scholarship Appeal mailing, we also hold an annual **Bake Sale (top)** to raise awareness of the program. In 2024, we added a new feature: **an auctioned painting by local artist Christopher Zamore (below)**.



## RUTH JORDAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

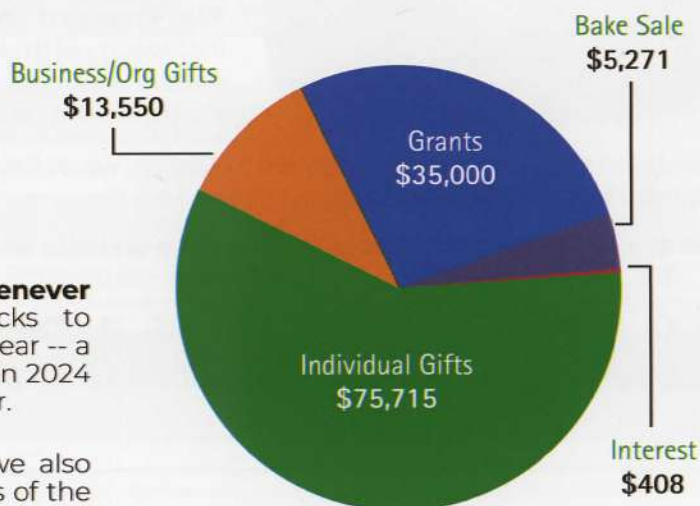
**Emma Simard**  
MDIHS Class of 2024



## BEVERLY COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Austria Morehouse**  
MDIHS Class of 2021

**Since 1953, Northeast Harbor Library has awarded scholarships towards higher education** for MDI High School graduates residing in the Town of Mount Desert. Eligibility now also includes students residing in the Cranberry Isles and home instruction students.



**Scholarship Income**  
**2024 Total: \$129,944**

Funding for the program comes entirely from our generous donors and grantors and is separate from the library's operating funds. **We thank you for your support!** To make a donation to our scholarship fund, please visit <https://donorbox.org/northeast-harbor-library-scholarship-fund>

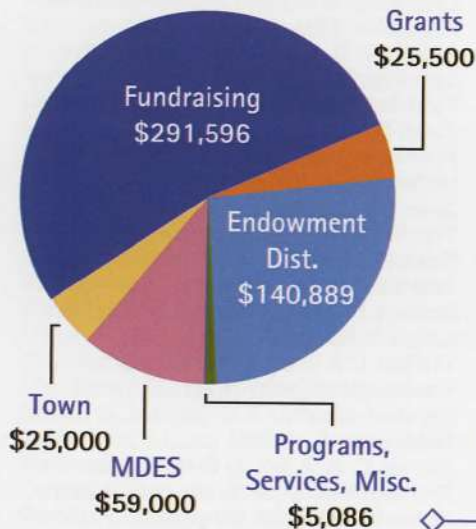
**The library also offers two special scholarships:** the Ruth Jordan Award for new applicants and the Beverly Coleman Award for renewing applicants. **Congratulations to our 2024 winners!**



# Financial Report

## Operating Expenses 2024 Total: \$639,486

The majority of the library's spending goes towards staffing costs, which included an increase in 2024 to meet service demands. New digital services (Libby and NY Times access) added to our programs and services budget. Utility costs have continued to increase and are impacting our facilities expenses.



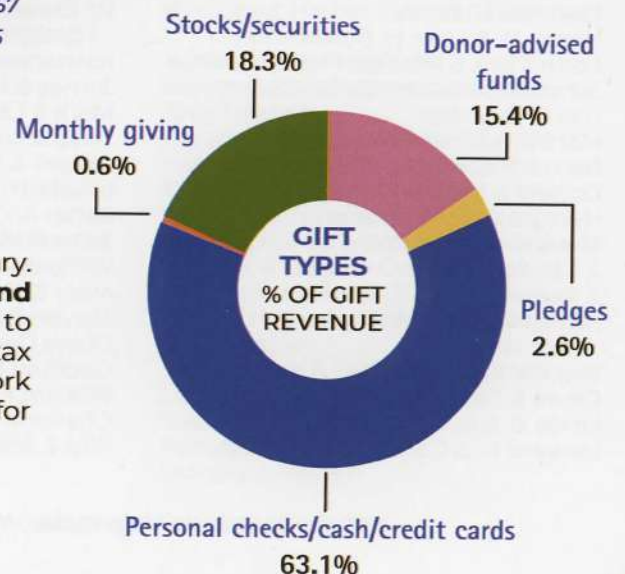
## Operating Income 2024 Total: \$547,071

Unlike most public libraries, the Northeast Harbor Library receives about half of our funding from donations. **Only 15% of our funds come from municipal sources** (Town of Mount Desert and Mount Desert Elementary School). To support the library and help us provide the vital services that matter to our island community, please visit [nehlibrary.org/donate](http://nehlibrary.org/donate) to learn how you can make an impact today.

Are you a supporter of the library?  
**Where do you see yourself represented?**

**Thank you to all of our donors who gave in 2024!** Because of your generous support, we are able to successfully maintain our high standards and quality of service while striving to meet our ambitious goals to match the needs of our wonderful island community. All donors are listed on pages 7-9.

Cash funds are the most popular way to give to the library. **However, donor-advised funds and gifts of stocks and securities are becoming increasingly popular** as a way to maximize giving while potentially receiving significant tax benefits. Talk to your tax advisor to see what solutions work best for you and your family, or visit [nehlibrary.org/donate/](http://nehlibrary.org/donate/) for instructions on how to make a gift of any kind.





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David J. Smiley & Lauren Kogod  
Frances C. Smith  
Raymond A. Smith\*  
Jamie S. Somes\*  
Allison Spadone & Andrew G. Karonis  
Laura Whitmer Spadone  
Fred A. Speece & Kathleen Atkins-Speece  
Roberta Sprague  
Charles R. & Patricia A. Spruill  
John P. & Natasha Steinle  
James R. & Marilyn B. Stephens  
Clare Stone  
Olympia Stone & R.J. Sims Preston  
Christine P. Strawbridge  
George Strawbridge Jr.  
Anne Stroud  
Morris W. & Donna C. Stroud II  
Stephen M. Stroud & Mayra S. Bonilla  
W. B. Dixon Stroud Jr. & Allison Stroud  
Caren V. Sturges  
Patricia Frances Sullivan  
Jerome H. Suminsby  
Sumner Scholarship Endowment Foundation\*\*

Swan Agency Real Estate  
Anonymous\*  
Lindsay C. Swanson\*  
Philip M. Taubman & Felicity Barringer  
Leah Taylor & Deborah D. Fisher  
Patricia S. Taylor  
Timothy & Jean Taylor  
William J. & Elizabeth Tebeaux  
Tad A. & Diane Templeton  
Mary A. Ternus  
Lihchyn Thomas\*\*  
Anne R. Thompson & Alex Bortolot  
Maria M. Thompson  
Phyllis Thompson  
Radclyffe F. & Maria M. Thompson  
Thornedge Foundation  
Edward H. Tillinghast III & Dorri Tillinghast  
Anne C. Tilney  
Kim D. Tomlinson & Laura D. Stanton  
Anna C. Toogood  
Carolyn & Chase Toogood\*  
Granville N. & Patricia Toogood\*\*  
Barbara J. Trimble\*\*  
The Tuckerman Foundation  
Two Sigma  
The UBS Matching Gifts Program  
The Uplands Family Foundation  
Valley Charitable Trust\*\*  
Jim & Bonnie Van Alen  
Joan R. Van der Grift  
Christiaan I. Van Heerden  
Mary L. & James Vekasi  
Kathleen Vignos  
Laurie Wadsworth\*  
Jennifer P. & Adam E. Wales  
John H. & Penelope J. Walls  
Clara P. Walmsley & Richard Wilkof  
Lloyd Mckellar & Campbell Mckellar Walmsley  
Robert Walmsley Jr. & Anne Walmsley\*\*  
Kenneth R. & Pamela Walton  
William & Cathy L. Waters  
Paul & Helen Weaver  
Sally M. Weiss\*\*  
Patrick H. Welch & Ellen Pope  
Sarah Coffin Westcott  
Lynne M. Wheat  
Alexander B. & Deborah Wheeler  
Warwick & Mollie Wheeler  
John White  
Shelby White  
Sally Willcox & Daniel Ross  
John & Averel Wilson  
Amy Wisehart  
Diana Strawbridge Wister  
Paul & Mary Woodfin  
Anna & Charles Woodward  
Margot A. Woolley & Gerard F. Vasisko  
Charlotte D. Wray  
Philip W. Zuckerman & Dorothy D. Pearson

\*Gave to Scholarship Fund \*\*Gave to both Operating and Scholarship Funds



# Hidden Gems of the Library



Free flower,  
herb, and  
vegetable seeds  
...available now!

## NEHL SEED LIBRARY

### Seed Library

**Check out our current inventory in the Garden Room on the second floor!** Fill out the form provided and take packets of seed home for your garden. Our seed library is made possible by seed donations from both commercial and home growers. Have some seeds to donate? Reach out to us!



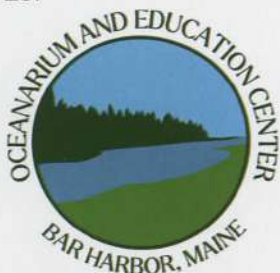
## LIBRARY OF THINGS AT THE NORTHEAST HARBOR LIBRARY

### Library of Things

We have numerous items available to borrow beyond books and media including telescopes, hula hoops, board games, AV/audio equipment, and more. **What would you like to borrow? Take our survey at the front desk** so we may keep expanding our collection of things in 2025!

## FREE Museum Passes

**Receive passes for the whole family to participating museums around Maine.** Call or visit the front desk to reserve a date! 2024 museums included the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor, the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, the Portland Museum of Art, the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, the Seal Cove Auto Museum, the Oceanarium in Bar Harbor, the Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor, and the Maine Granite Industry Museum in Mount Desert. Check out these participating museums in 2025!



PORTLAND MUSEUM of ART







Northeast Harbor Library  
1 Joy Road, PO Box 279  
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662  
(207) 276-3333  
nehlibrary.org

## LIBRARY SERVICES:

### School and Public Library

NEHL is the library for both Mount Desert Elementary School and the Town of Mount Desert.

### Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

Order books from participating libraries within Maine, or use your NEHL card at reciprocal libraries

### Printing & Photocopies

Self-service during open hours.

### Computers & Wifi

Public access computers for both children and adults, plus free WiFi.

### Tech Help Appointments

Schedule an appointment through our website or by phone.

### Study Rooms & Mellon Room Reservations

Ask us about reserving a private study or meeting room.

### Digital Resources

Access to audiobooks, e-books, reference books, journal articles, music, television, films, graphic novels, and language courses.

### Archives

Book an appointment to visit our physical collection, or view our digital collection on our website.

### Museum Passes

FREE passes to participating museums throughout Maine.

### Book Sale

Located in the basement  
Monday through Friday 10am-4pm  
Saturdays 10am-2pm (Dec. - Mar.)  
Saturdays 10am-4pm (Apr. - Nov.)

### Programming

Fun, educational, and inspiring programs for all ages! See page 4 or visit [nehlibrary.org/events](http://nehlibrary.org/events)

### Seed Library

FREE seeds in the Garden Room!

Visit [nehlibrary.org/services](http://nehlibrary.org/services) or call 207-276-3333 to learn more.

## 2024 IN REVIEW:

### *A Library By Community, For Community*

The Northeast Harbor Library adopted a new multi-year strategic plan in 2024 after months of gathering community input. Thank you to everyone who offered thoughtful feedback on our survey!

Above all, the biggest takeaway was just how much this library means to our community across all demographics. But of course, there is always room for improvement. Top demands include more programming for all ages, building updates, collection additions, and enhanced services.

Last year, we began implementing our plans by expanding our programming and adding new digital resources like Libby and New York Times access. After switching to statewide consortium Minerva, patrons now have access to nearly any book in Maine.

Over the next few years, you can expect even more programs for both adults and children, furniture and layout enhancements, and a cooling system to keep the building comfortable in the summer and to better preserve our collections.

These plans are ambitious, and they will take time and hard work to complete. But we know that you, our community, will support us as much as we are committed to supporting you. Thank you to everyone for being a part of this beloved library!

## Library Open Hours 2025

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday through Friday:       | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm |
| Saturday (April - November): | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm |
| Saturday (December - March): | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm |
| Sunday and Federal Holidays: | CLOSED            |

