

Blue Hill Library Notes

Special Edition Fall/Winter 2013

EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE:

How Much?

\$119,000! Sounds like a lot (and it is) but if we had \$1 for every patron visit we would raise over \$112,000 in a year.

Why?

The **Blue Hill Public Library** is an *independent non-profit* organization. We are “public” because our mission is to provide free access to information for everyone who seeks our services. Approximately **20% of our budget** comes from four area towns: Blue Hill, Surry, Sedgwick and Penobscot, with most of this money coming from Blue Hill. *The rest comes from.....*

Who?

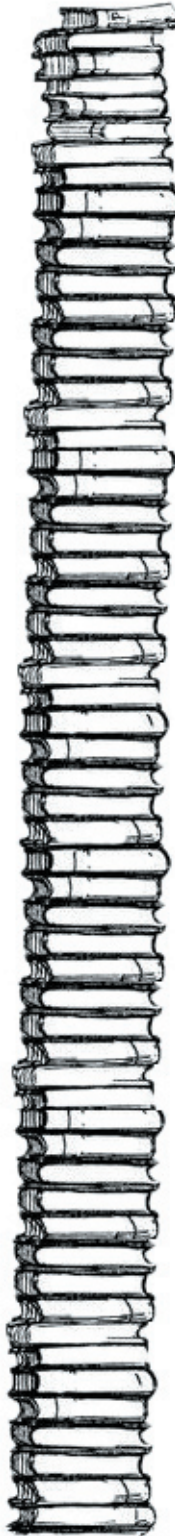
You! 80% of our funding comes from patrons in the form of direct donations, fees, and gifts to the endowment.

What For?

It takes many things to make this library excellent: 1) Courteous, professional **staff** 2) A comfortable, well lit **building** that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer 3) Up-to-date **computers**, software and Wi-Fi; 4) Current and constantly updated **collections**. and 5) Excellent and diverse educational and cultural **programs** (over 300/year!) **The library is a treasured community resource, which is made possible by your tax-deductible donations.**

How?

There are many ways to support the library! Make a **direct donation** of any amount by cash, check, or credit card. Become a **4-Seasons donor** and make automatic monthly payments of \$5 or more. Attend one of our **fundraisers**. Make an **in-kind donation** of goods or services. Donate or **buy books**. Include the Blue Hill Public Library in your **legacy plans**.



BLUE HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY: ROOMS TO THINK

- FARNHAM (MIKE) BLAIR

There are so many things I like about the Blue Hill Public Library: the books, from spanking new to very old; the broad variety of periodicals; the shelves thick with intriguing DVD's and CD's; the constantly-changing art exhibitions; the concerts for children (which I enjoy as much as my granddaughter); the readings by authors; the wide range of discussion and performance groups; the strong Wi-Fi signal; and, of course, the consistently friendly and helpful staff.

Moreover, in the years since the expansion and reconfiguration of the building, what I have come to enjoy as much as any of the library's other excellences is its spaciousness, the number and variety of its rooms. Every time I am there, which is often, I feel exceptionally fortunate to live in a small village that has a library so commodious.

As a writer and former teacher, I try to keep up with research devoted to facilitating effective reading and writing. Based on over 50 years of inquiry, especially the last 10, neuroscientists have demonstrated conclusively that a fully active brain is essential to one's best performance as a reader or writer. No surprise there, but it turns out that, to keep one's brain active, one must keep it

continued on other side

Have you heard?
**the library is now
open 10am-5pm
on Saturdays!**

Come spend the afternoon with us.

constantly refreshed.

If we concentrate on the same task from the same point of view for more than about 20 minutes, our brain begins to dial down its activity level—an automatic response to repetition of information. Therefore, to read or write at full efficiency, we need to pick up our book or tablet every third of an hour and set up shop in a place with a different viewpoint. How I wish I had known this information while I was a student. When my teachers would dress me down for—quite naturally, it turns out—grabbing a quick look out the window or a glance at the ceiling, I could have replied, “Just refreshing my brain, sir.”

The library, with its generous selection of rooms, and the attractive variety of work spaces each offers, is—in addition to its many other positive roles—an outstandingly fine place to read or write. Whenever I’m involved with a writing project, I head for 5 Parker Point Road. The space there is such that one can easily keep moving operations comfortably, keeping one’s mind fresh and alert. My first three books were written entirely in just such a library.

Every year, I support the library for its excellent collections, tremendously varied activities, and its caring and well-informed staff. But I also support the library for the deep richness of space it offers all of us readers and writers, young and old.

Author Farnham Blair was born in Washington D.C. and lives in Blue Hill. You can find his books of poetry and essays, including his most recent, Peripheral Visions: Memoirs Of A Washington Childhood, on the shelves of the Blue Hill Public Library.

YOU ARE INVITED TO
The Friends of the Library
Holiday Party
Saturday December 21st
2:30-5pm

Carol Sing-a-long,
reading of *A Christmas Carol*, Children’s activities,
Juggling Performance
Music & Refreshments

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO
DO IN 2014?
*The library is here to help turn those
New Year’s resolutions into reality.*

Raise chickens * Discuss Current Events * Start Knitting *
Improve your health * Read plays aloud * Professional growth
* Write * Teach * Understand Opera * Cook something
new * Update your Computer Skills * Create & Share Art *
Network * Geneology research * Buy Art * Read to a Dog
* Review Hunter Safety * Play Chess * Read more e-books *
Explore new music * Play frisbee * Sponsor an event

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE



Hi, my name is Shelley Latham and I joined the library staff in April. My job is to make it easy and fun for you to support the Blue Hill Public Library. I moved my family here from New Jersey 7 years ago, in part because I was so impressed with the library. What I didn’t know at the time was that many of the things that make this town so special—the library, George Stevens Academy, the fire department, the hospital—count on direct donations to stay open. If you are anything like me, having too much on your desk is part of the reason you might not always give at the end of the year. If you *think* you gave, or you just can’t remember the last time you donated, feel free to contact me for your donation history. And if you see me around town, say hello, I always love to talk about the library. I can be reached at: slatham@bhpl.net or 374-5515 ext16