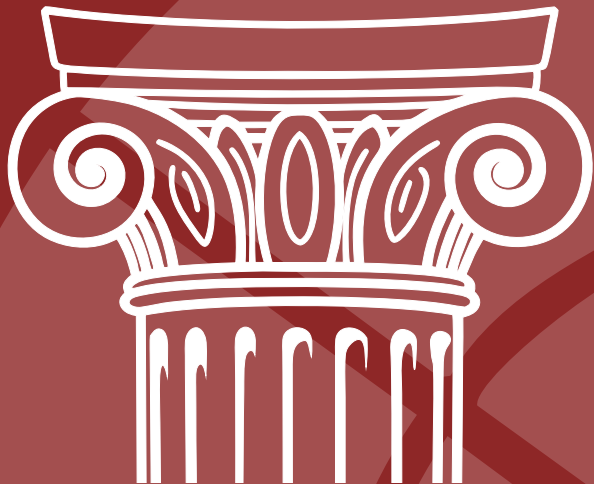




Blue Hill Library

NOTES

SUMMER 2026



For questions and information about programs, services, and hours of operation, please visit our website, www.bhpl.net, or call us, 207-374-5515.

Blue Hill Public Library
5 Parker Point Rd.
Blue Hill, Maine 04614

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELLSWORTH, ME
04605
PERMIT NO. 73

the sweetest note telling me not to worry about the late fines and to bring the book back once we had recovered. I'm sure the postpartum hormones and pain medication played a part, but I remember being brought to tears by the email.

Once Henry and I recovered, we returned home to Blue Hill, and began figuring out new routines and daily rhythms, which included weekly library visits. Having a place to land and meeting other parents and caregivers in a welcoming environment meant so much to me as a new mother. I have learned so much about daycare options, babysitters, schools, and community events by chatting with other folks at the library. I have met some of my closest friends through library story times and play groups. Henry could not walk or talk during his first library visits, but now he has read a majority of the chapter books. My youngest, Winslow, has now begun to read and begs me to take her to the library after school so she can check out books on her own card.

Both of my kids are voracious readers, but the library is so much more than just books for my family. It is a place to land, a place that is always welcoming, and warm or cool depending on the season. A place to connect with friends and our community. A place we can visit without the need to buy something (although the coffee is top notch, and I seem to always find something at the Book Nook). Often my husband and I will say to each other "we are so lucky to have this library." We are truly grateful for all that the staff does to keep our library open six days a week.

If you love the library as much as I do, please consider joining the Friends of the Library, which is the volunteer group that supports the library by funding special programming and materials for loan.

Arlee Woodworth Morris, BHPL member since 2017, and Friends of the Library member since 2023.

Above left: Arlee, Winslow, and Henry at last year's Adelaide Pearson Festival. Above: Henry and Winslow play in the "kid kitchen" with a friend a few years ago.

RAISING KIDS at the Library

-Arlee Woodworth Morris

When my husband, Chris, and I moved to Blue Hill in the spring of 2017, we didn't know a soul. Our realtor, Pat, told us the Blue Hill Public Library was a must-see and would help us get a feel for the community. She said people loved the place so much that the library had to extend its hours. This was a delight to hear as we had moved from a small island where the library was only open a few hours a week.

That October, our son, Henry, was born. The birth was unexpectedly complex and we ended up at the Bangor hospital together, each with our complications. I was cleared to leave after a few days, but Henry stayed for another eight. I remember seeing his little body covered in tubes, wires, and sensors. In the haze of our time at the hospital, an email came through my phone saying I had an overdue library book. I emailed the circulation desk back and explained I was in the hospital and unsure when I'd be able to return the book. Dale wrote back



EARLY CHILDHOOD Outreach

-Claire Malina, Youth Services Librarian



Ms. Jen gets kids moving and waving colorful scarves during "Music and Movement Storytime," which is on Mondays at 10:30 in the Howard Room through the summer.

Kids are at the heart of much that we do here at the Blue Hill Library. When I was hired in 2018, I took on the role of Youth Services Librarian, which involved working with babies to 18-year-olds. Over the last eight years, this position has evolved into a Youth Services Team, and thanks to generous donations from members of the community the library was able to hire Ruth Slaven Teen Services and Outreach Librarian Kendall Chapman and Early Childhood Outreach Librarian "Ms. Jen" Rosenthal. We now have the equivalent of two full-time staff devoted to youth services, allowing us to provide even more offerings tailored to different age ranges and developmental stages. And in 2025, our youth services team provided 373 programs for kids and teens!

As we develop events for kids, teens, and adults, there are questions at the heart of all of our discussions: who are the underserved members of our community and how can we reach them? One such population that we've been trying to

connect with are children who attend daycare and aren't able to access our library's early childhood offerings. Enter Ms. Jen! Over the last year, Ms. Jen has been roaming the peninsula, bringing fun and energetic storytimes to childcare centers from Deer Isle to Penobscot, and all the way back to Blue Hill, introducing the concept and excitement of the library to kids who might not be able to get to the library otherwise. There are nine daycare centers in her rotation and the kids are thrilled when Ms. Jen arrives with new stories and songs to share. Music is a huge part of Ms. Jen's programs because "music and singing support language development and phonological awareness (the ability to recognize and manipulate sounds), which, according to the Center for Effective Reading Instruction, has been found to be a predictor of later academic success and reading ability." Singing with children is effectively a way to support their development and is an important part of the foundation for early literacy.

Ms. Jen also brings traveling storytimes to the Blue Hill YMCA for stories and open gym once a month. The YMCA has generously invited families to this event with no membership required so anyone can come, regardless of their financial situation. It is incredibly valuable for kids to have safe places to gather and to meet other families.

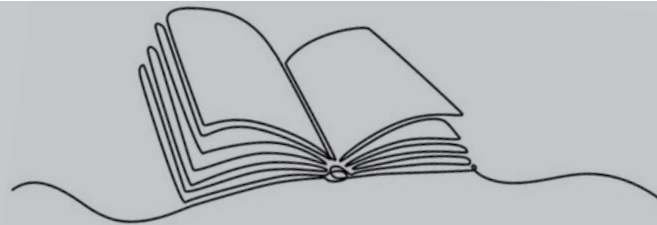
The early years of a child's life are deeply important. Every moment is an opportunity for exploration, imagination, and learning. According to the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, a child's brain undergoes an amazing period of development from birth to age three, producing more than a million neural connections each second. This is a driving force in the design of our children's area of the library and the various programs we offer for kids and families. At the Blue Hill Library, children and youth services are of utmost importance and by investing in our community's youngest members, we are investing in our community and the future.

"The Blue Hill Library really becomes invaluable once you have kids. We're there three or more times a week—our daughter loves music and movement with Ms. Jen and storytime with Claire, and Wednesday play group. It's truly a lifeline for young families: a place to keep toddlers engaged, make new friends, and connect with other parents. The programming they provide is incredibly valuable and such an important part of the community."

— Stefan Blanchard

BOARD Transitions

–Shelley Kehl, Board President



The BHPL board hosts several events throughout the year. Here, then Board President John Diamond addresses the guests at last August's art show—a yearly fundraiser for the library.

The library's Annual Meeting, this year on April 29, was and is always a bittersweet event. While the library happily welcomes new board members into its ranks, it also has to bid farewell to long-term members who have contributed enormous energy, time, and talent to our library.

This year the library board applauded the important work of four departing members.

Callie Curtis has been a generously active board member for nine years, serving as the Chair of the Governance Committee as well as on the Executive, Development, and Finance Committees. Callie has been a longtime fan and supporter of Paint the Peninsula. Her warmth and thoughtfulness were her hallmark.

Jill Knowles served as a dynamic board member for nine years, leading the Development and Governance Committees, and was on the Executive Committee. She contributed her expertise to the strategic plan and the developing campus plan. Jill's smile and energy defined her. She will continue to work with the Ad Hoc Outreach Committee.

Pascale Soriano's six years on the board was marked by her calming presence. She was an active member of the Building and Grounds, Personnel, and Collections Committees and her contributions were notable. Her outstanding dedication to her board responsibilities were reflected by her valued participation in meetings despite extreme time zone differences during parts of the year.

Linda Viertel served enthusiastically on the library board for three years, working on the Collections Committee, Paint the Peninsula, and strategic planning. Linda will long be remembered for her outstanding cooking and catering abilities, which were the highlight of a number of library events during her tenure.

The board welcomed four new members at the meeting to join in the exciting work facing the library as it embarks on its campus plan.

Nina Wish Adler's knowledge of the library began with her own childhood on the peninsula and continues with regular visits to BHPL with her own children. She has nearly 20 years of teaching experience and has also worked as a potter, gardener, caterer, and nonprofit director. She is thrilled and honored to be joining the board.

Jo Barrett brings a wealth of experience from other area nonprofits and community groups to the library board. Jo is a retired teacher, farmer, and consultant. She practices an abbreviated form of homesteading on her very small holding in Blue Hill. Jo has deeply appreciated the Blue Hill Library as a student, a teacher, an avid reader, a mom, and a grandmother.

Dan Coit is a lifelong seasonal resident of Blue Hill, and can usually be found sailing, tinkering with his old cars, or trying to coax his recalcitrant garden to grow. He recently retired from a forty-year career as a surgical oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. As a BHPL board member, he is excited about the prospect of being able to give back to the community that has meant so much to him and to his family for many years.

Susan Kirk and her husband, John, moved to Blue Hill in 2021 and she has volunteered with numerous nonprofits. BHPL's New Deal history, and its founders, Adelaide Pearson and Anne Hinckley, are especially meaningful and inspiring to Susan, as she has been on the board of The Frances Perkins Center, the philanthropic partner of the Frances Perkins National Monument. She is excited to devote these skills to the library.

The members of the board look forward to a challenging and exciting year of work with the incredible staff at the library to better serve the community.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY News

– Ann Pladson, Friends of the Library President

Earlier this year, the Friends of the Library created and hosted an exhibit in the Howard Room entitled “Tucked Away – The Ephemera Found in Donated Books and the Volunteers Who Find Them.”

Originally, we planned to focus on the plethora of objects the volunteers have found in donated books. However, as a team of volunteers (Nina Fleming, Tricia Thomas, and myself) started working on the project, we were reminded that the stories behind these items was tightly woven into the fabric of the history of the Friends—a history of folks, both local and from away, who have generously given their time over the years to help make the Blue Hill Library what it is today.

As often is the case, the history of an organization like the Friends is held in the memories of its members—bits and pieces recalled in conversation, memories awakened by a collection of old photos, or a review of an article in an old periodical—but nothing captures everything in one place. As a result, we decided to expand the original scope of the “Tucked Away” exhibit to share the history of the Friends and the amazing volunteers who support the Book Nook.

We interviewed current and past employees and volunteers, and scoured the library’s archives and periodicals for details. This helped us fill in the gaps and gave us a much better understanding of the organization’s history and showed how deeply rooted volunteerism is in the Friends of the Library.

Even though the first official recorded meeting of the Friends didn’t happen until 1988, as early as 1940, Library Director Adelaide Pearson recruited George Stevens Academy student volunteers to hand-carry books to the new library building, one armload at a time. We learned that, over the years, the library has come to depend on the Friends volunteers to help with many programs, events, and capital support. Through our research, we confirmed that the idea of the Book Nook came to fruition in 2002 during conversations between new library director Rich Boulet and volunteer Elvira Bass about using empty space in the library basement. What Elvira started in the basement as a small collection of used books available for purchase at monthly Saturday morning sales has turned into a well-stocked, curated collection of quality used books that is open daily to patrons. Elvira would be proud to know that,



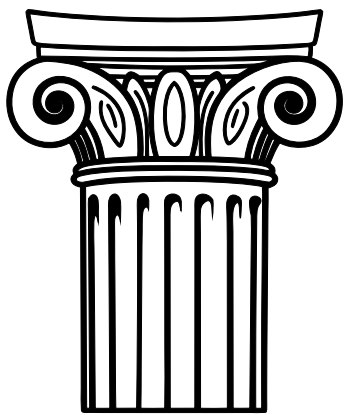
Four of our wonderful Book Nook Volunteers, Regina Reid, Sandy Baroody, Kate O'Dell, and Bonnie Copper.

over the past 10 years alone, the Friends’ Book Nook has raised over \$200,000, all of which has been given back to the library to help support children’s and adult programming.

By the time we were ready to install the exhibit, we were able to feature a timeline that laid out key milestones for the Friends back to 1988. As we continue to update the history of the Friends, we hope it helps all of the volunteers who generously give of their time—“tucked away” in the Book Nook or helping out at one of the many library events — better understand the Friends’ compelling story and live it authentically, both at the library and in their communities.



FRIENDS OF THE
BLUE HILL
PUBLIC LIBRARY



ART HISTORY and HANDS-ON ART with Margret Baldwin

-Robin Jettinghoff



Self-portraits were one of the projects in 2024.

For the last several years, local artist Margret Baldwin has offered an art history program that runs from dark and cold January to the blossoming light and warmth of May. Each year, she chooses a theme. These have included impressionism, portraiture, and abstract art. Each month, the library presents a movie, usually about a single artist, and usually on the second Thursday of the month (put that on your calendar).

Once in a while, the movies portray a dramatization of the artist's life. My very favorite movie of all was "Loving Vincent," which is presented using only the art created by Vincent Van Gogh. It presents 65,000 frames of his paintings, each with slight animations, done by a team of 125 artists, that bring the art to life.

Movie viewers who would like to understand the artist's process better can try it themselves a week later, when a lucky dozen beginners learn how to imitate the masters. I can still remember the first year's lesson on cave painting. We used charcoal, hair, ochre, and red dust that we applied to a rough plaster surface that Margret had made by pouring plaster of Paris into tin foil dishes.

It was fascinating to try to mimic those ancient strokes as

we followed the rough surface of our pieces. That was only the beginning. Later art projects let us mimic many other artists, including those brushstrokes of Van Gogh that were brought to life in that movie. As someone who never had art lessons in school, this was a delightful opportunity to experience the joy of learning how to work with color, stroke, and media to mimic the great artists of the past. This past year Margret facilitated our learning about modern artists, from Hilma Af Klint to Henri Matisse.

This art program is my favorite of all the many wonderful opportunities that BHPL offers our community. Even if, like myself, you have no art experience at all, Margret makes you feel like you can imitate the impressionists and mimic the masters. And we all have so much fun with Margret along the way.

Margret Baldwin is a certified art instructor, who has taught art in Blue Hill for 25 years, enlightening students at both the Consolidated School and the Harbor School. She also offers private instruction. Margret has exhibited widely, participates in the library's Paint the Peninsula event, and runs her "Little Gallery" at her home in Surry.

TAPE ART

-Kendall Chapman, Ruth Slaven Teen Services & Outreach Librarian

I've experienced many wonderful events that offer something unique to our community at BHPL. The staff, myself included, try our best to provide a variety of opportunities that people might not be able to experience elsewhere. We're fortunate to have support from the community and Friends of the Library.

The Slaven Event Series is one that allows us to reach beyond the local area to bring in unique speakers and events that might otherwise not be possible. Over the years we've hosted some fabulous events—from lectures on the cosmos to shark evolution, graphic novel creation, and various documentaries. In 2025, we were able to host the Tape Artist Michael Townsend, perhaps best known for his “secret” project at a mall in Providence, Rhode Island, that inspired the making of the documentary, “Secret Mall Apartment” (available at our library; hope you like it!). Along with seven other artists, he fashioned and lived in a secret apartment between the walls of an out-of-the-way, unused area in the mall that remained undiscovered for four years!

When Michael, and his associate, Pam, came here last year, students from various Blue Hill schools came throughout the day to create large-scale mask-wearing animals out of Michael's special type of masking tape. These were inspired by Tammy Bernard's whimsical leather masks and Tanya Washburn's detailed metal prints, which were that month's art show. Tape Art covered the walls of the Britton Gallery, Howard Room, and the stairwells, with koalas, cats, jellyfish, snakes, and

unicorns, merging with trees, plants, and water. Nature was everywhere, in blue and green tape, with something new to discover everyday.

I'm thrilled to share that we will be hosting Michael for a second time this October! This year, students will create their Tape

Art designs in response to their own art teachers' works that will be hanging on the gallery walls. I'm looking forward to seeing what the kids create, and I'm incredibly grateful that we get to host Michael again with help from the Friends of the Library. (Please stay tuned for more details!)

Following in ADELAIDE PEARSON'S Footsteps

-Kendall Chapman, Ruth Slaven Teen Services & Outreach Librarian

Two years ago, I dreamed up a program in honor of the library's benefactor, Adelaide Pearson, a small arts festival where people of all ages could come to the library to dabble in various art mediums and see demonstrations from seasoned artists. Not only did this event come to fruition thanks to the generosity of the Purvis Family, but what we aptly named the Adelaide Pearson Arts Festival (APAF) is now in its third year!

The first two years of APAF have brought some phenomenal artists and craftsmen to the library, including potters, painters, boat builders, felters, dyers, and more. And hundreds of people from all over the peninsula have attended, connecting over creativity and community.

I treasure this event. I feel strongly that Miss Pearson would thoroughly approve as it imitates the summer art classes she once hosted at Rowantrees. APAF exists not just to honor Miss Pearson's name, but to follow in her footsteps, bringing art and culture to the community. I only wish she could be here to see what her legacy has inspired. Here's to year three!



Left: Three of the many participants in the Tape Art project who came throughout the day and added to what was there. Above right: A youngster trying his hand at watercolor painting at last year's festival.



A Work in Progress: CAMPUS PLANNING

– Rich Boulet, Library Director

I like to say that all of us who work or volunteer at the Blue Hill Public Library, no matter how long our tenure, are but brief stewards of a community treasure. I say brief because, though it appears for example that my tenure here may take up the better part of my life, over the whole life of the library, it will be but a footnote.

I arrived here at an auspicious time. It was January 2002 and the library had just been expanded and renovated. Blue Hill had what was effectively a brand-new library and the board handed me the keys. What an honor.

Going on 25 years of service I look back at the projects we've accomplished and I take a lot of pride in them. The Larchwood Room has become a hub of early learning and a haven for parents; the teen area a rite of passage destination now for a couple of generations of adolescents; the Adelaide Pearson Room a community asset that is the home of so much joy; the meeting rooms the site of countless cultural events and meetings of the mind, and on and on.

During all of these projects, not much has been done to better serve our patrons outside. At the same time, the pandemic taught us how blessed we are to have grounds and how much our patrons enjoy using them during the leafy times of year.

In 2021, we took a major step forward by purchasing 13 Parker Point Rd, the property that is just beyond the library parking lot. We recently cleared the lot to make way for an expanded library campus. The library's Building and Grounds Committee has spent the last year working with architects Bruce Stahnke



A schematic plan by architects Bruce Stahnke and Sam Coplon, working with the BHPL Grounds Committee and incorporating feedback from constituent interviews. The library board is investigating the feasibility of this plan.

and Sam Coplon on plans that integrate that property into a new, unified campus. We interviewed many constituents and distilled their feedback into an architectural program that emphasized outdoor gathering and interaction space, art, an outdoor children's area, and parking. As of this writing, the library board has endorsed the schematic plan and is working towards cost estimating.

More recently, in 2025, already well into this process, we were approached by Blue Hill Memorial Hospital about our interest in purchasing 10 Parker Point Rd, also known as the Woodward House. With that purchase complete, we are planning to use the site for additional parking while exploring the future use of the house by others. Stay tuned for updates as they are known.

A “whole pile of hopes and dreams” sums up where we are in the process right now. We'll see what they will become in the future. In the meantime, thanks to all of you for your comments, engagement, and support.

Would you like to receive our **weekly events email newsletter**? It's easy to sign up at www.bhpl.net using this QR code.

