



September 16, 2024

Dear Friends of Scarborough Library,

The Friends board has had a busy year of trying new things and developing new ways to support the library we all know and love. As of today, our board is at its full capacity with ten members, so I'm pleased to welcome Kimberly Sawyer, Jennifer Allen, Ainsley Browne and William Sedlack.

Our annual meeting will take place at the library on Saturday, October 5 from 2-4pm. This year, we will be hosting a brief meeting with plenty of time to socialize and enjoy treats from Café Luna. We've heard feedback from our membership that they would like more opportunities to gather, so this format is in response to that request. The general public is also welcome to come learn about the Friends and join as members. We are also keeping it simple to save our energy for an exciting brand new event coming in early November.

On Sunday, November 3, we will be turning the library into an indoor mini golf course! This event will be an opportunity for community members of all ages to have some summer fun in the darker winter days. The night before the main event, on Saturday, November 2, we invite you, our members and the library staff to an exclusive round of mini golf without the crowd. Time and details for this will be coming soon.

With this new event, we hope to raise funds through sponsorships and reduce the need for frequent book sales, which are very work-intensive for our board.

This year, our smaller book sales and book bag sales totaled almost \$5,000 in income. After introducing credit card and Venmo payment options and bringing back our "members only" preview nights last year, this year we have brought back the \$5 "fill-a-bag" day at the end of the sale. If these are well-attended, we'll keep doing them, so make sure you keep an eye on the library's calendar and our social media for dates. Our next sale is coming up this weekend! We will have member night on Friday, Sept 20 from 5:30-6:30, the regular sale on Saturday from 9am-2pm, and bag day on Sunday from 9-noon.

Our Emerson lecture series included a variety of topics from Maine science writers. We hosted Chelsea Conaboy, author of *Motherbrain*, and Ret Talbot, co-author of *Chasing Shadows*. Both lectures had packed rooms and lots of attendants on Zoom. Later this month, we will be hearing Laura Poppick speak about geology and "deep time" – what we can learn about our history from the rocks all around us. This will be at 7pm on September 26, so mark your calendars.

We are also very excited to have Peter Brown, author and illustrator of *The Wild Robot*, as our Emerson lecturer for the younger community on Saturday, March 22, 2025!

The Friends continue to fully fund the Summer Learning program. This year we provided \$1,150, and the program was a huge success, with approximately 1,100 people participating. We also pay the fees that support free museum passes and movies, cover the Book Pages subscription, and were once again glad to present the library with \$4,000 as our annual gift. If you've attended an event in the meeting room and noticed the new and improved chairs, you're welcome! Those were purchased using Friends dollars.

Friends, becoming and remaining a member of our organization is more important than ever, because libraries are more important than ever. Free access to accurate information and diversity of thought is essential in a time when books are being challenged and banned. Thank you for your membership. I look forward to seeing you all at our annual meeting.

Our board for 2024-2025:

President	Kate Kearns
Vice President	Julie dePersis
Treasurer	Elizabeth Hersey
Secretary	Kim Corthell
Membership	Abigail Am
Member	Kathy Little
Member	Kimberly Sawyer
Member	Jennifer Allen
Member	Ainsley Browne
Member	William Sedlack

Thank you so much for your support. I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on October 5.

With Gratitude,

Kate Kearns

2024/2025 Committee Reports

Secretary/Archives

Meeting minutes for all board meetings are available upon request.

Membership

This year, we've been dedicated to enhancing your membership experience and attracting new enthusiasts to our community. We're pleased to report that, thanks to our 54 active memberships in our 2023-24 membership year, we raised \$2500 in membership dues to support the library. To build on this momentum, we've successfully launched a variety of exciting new events designed to engage and grow our membership base, including an upcoming indoor mini golf event this fall that we hope will draw in even more members. Additionally, we introduced merchandise and special exclusive membership discounts as a thank-you for your continued support. To keep you better informed and connected, we've also upgraded our membership communications with more effective renewal reminders and welcoming emails for new members.

Annual Treasurer’s Report – Elizabeth Morrow, Treasurer

All accounts are at Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank. The account balances as of end of fiscal year beginning June 1, 2023, and ending on May 31, 2024, are below.

CD and Savings Accounts:

CD \$10,045.10 Earning 4.89% interest – matures 1/24/2025	\$11,651.60
Emerson CD \$70,000.00 Earning 3.93% interest – matures 08/13/2024	\$72,931.18
Emerson CD \$32,700.00 Earning 3.75% interest – matures 06/23/2024	\$36,560.04
Emerson Savings Account (Current interest rate 0.5%)	\$3,985.54
Total CDs and Savings:	\$125,128.36
Checking Account:	\$17,070.18
Total of All Accounts:	\$142,198.54

Sales and Outflow Summary, Elizabeth Hersey Morrow, Treasurer

We held three one-day book sales this year, in September 2023, January 2024, and April 2024. These three sales collectively generated \$4,961.72 in book sales and \$270 in merchandise sales (new hats and bags, as well as the previous T-shirts).

Throughout the year we raised \$3,172.95 in memberships and donations. In addition, we had an unusually profitable year on our investments due to the higher interest rates from 2023.

As noted last year, we have been able to meet our obligations and maintain our usual support to the library despite the inability to have an extra-large annual book sale. The revenue from the three single-day book sales this year covered our annual \$4,000 gift to the library. We have continued funding the summer reading program and maintaining the various licenses and passes for the library and patron use. These include the popular Bookpages publication, as well as the Swank movie license that allows the library to screen films, and the passes for Children’s Museum of Maine, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, and Maine State Park passes.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Morrow