July 2020

Dear Friends,

This year, we’ve seen the best of our community as we have rallied together through challenging times. We’ve adapted, worked to protect public health, supported our local businesses, and found creative ways to support those who serve the needs of our community. Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library (BHML) celebrates this collective spirit as we too adapt to continue to serve the educational and informational needs of all members of our community.

In March, BHML collaborated with the school libraries at BRES and BRHS to issue library cards by mail to over 200 students so they could access BHML’s digital library during the school and library closures. We launched a community-wide poetry project (POETRY NOW!) and collected works from dozens of local poets from first time writers to seasoned writers and students. Miss Harolyn joined the ranks of children’s librarians who delivered storytimes on-line as we worked to stay connected to budding readers. In June, BHML opened for curbside service following CDC, state, and professional guidelines and the staff is thrilled to see patrons again, albeit at a distance!

This year, summer reading has gone online; if you haven’t signed up yet, it’s not too late, visit bbhlibrary.org/summerreading2020! Since the onset of closures and quarantine, use of online resources has almost doubled compared to the same time last year. Hoopla use increased 40%! And, you can still call, email, and place orders directly in the catalog for physical books.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 we were forced to cancel many of our summer fundraising events and activities. These include our annual fundraiser, crafters on the lawn, Books in Boothbay, and walk-in donations. In a “normal” summer, these activities would make up over $10,000 of our annual income, and they were an important part of meeting this year’s annual fundraising goal of $95,000.

With your support and generosity, we hope that you can help us close the gap. Please consider contributing what you can this year to BHML to make sure we can keep curbside service going and safely deliver new books, old favorites, DVDs, and audiobooks in our contact-free curbside service.

You can donate by returning the enclosed envelope or go online to https://bbhlibrary.org/donate.

When the time comes, we cannot wait to welcome the community back into the Library!

Sincerely,

BHML Board of Trustees

4 Oak Street | Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538 | 207-633-3112 | www.bbhlibrary.org
The poem below, submitted by a 2020 BRHS graduate, is one of the many incredible poems contributed to BHML during the April POETRY NOW! project. View the whole collection at: bbhlibrary.org/contributing-poets.

Stuck
by Michael Hollowell

I’ve lost track of the days at this point
They seem to be cojuncting together joining into one
Wake up classes game sleep
It’s as if it’s illegal to go outside everything’s closed
We wait in line for bread and milk again it doesn’t seem to be getting better
But hopefully it is
Were stuck inside it’s April and it’s started to snow
There’s a mix of calm and panic at the same time
Like the calm of the storm but the storm has just begun