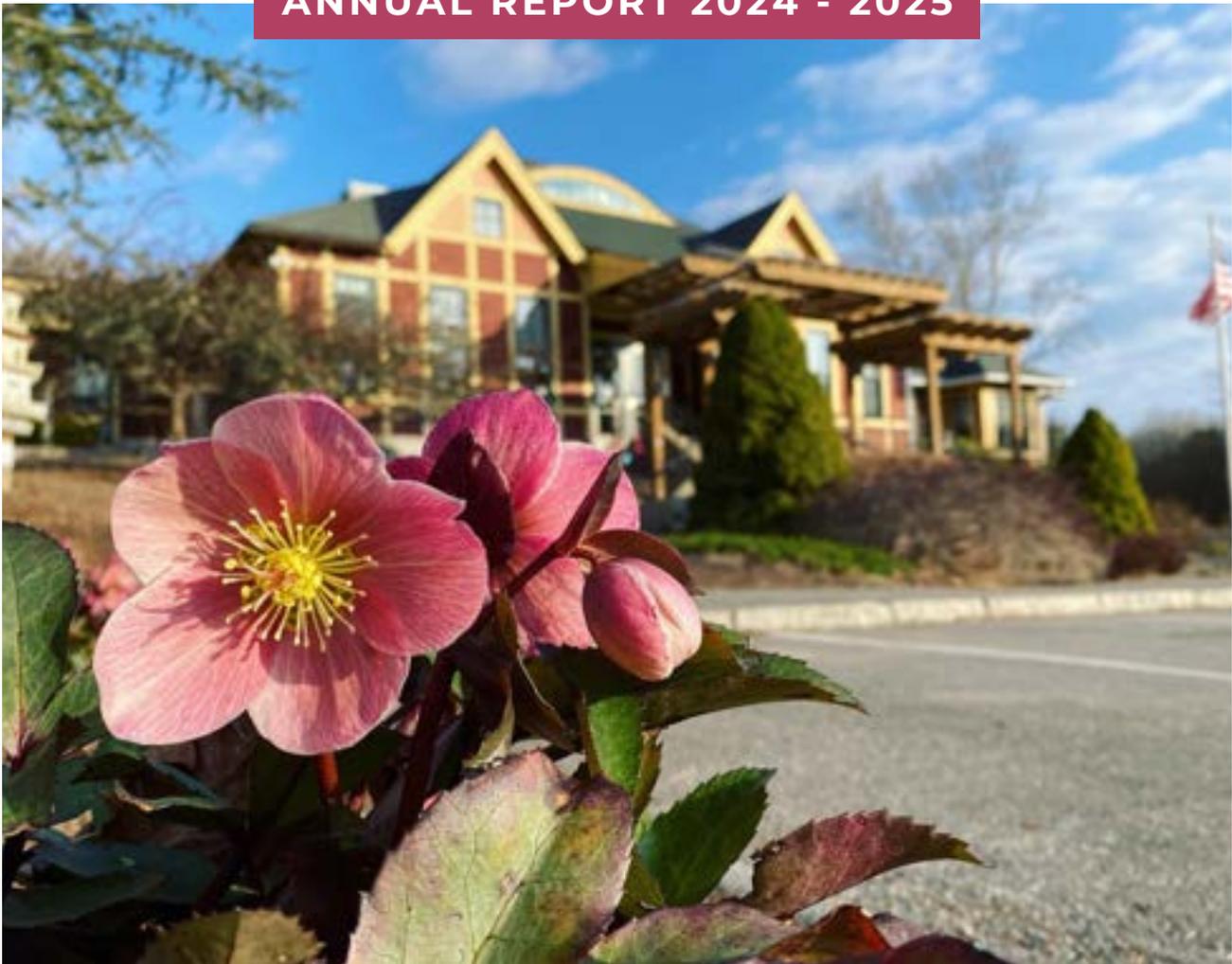


# Brewster Ladies' Library

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025**



# Brewster Ladies' Library Association President's Report

LISA PERKINS



At our Annual Meeting in July, I welcomed the BLLA members to what was possibly the 172nd Annual Meeting of the Brewster Ladies' Library Association. I say "possibly" because although the Association was founded in January 1853, as I leafed through the pages of handwritten minutes, I found no annual meeting in 1863—when the country was in the throes of the Civil War. Regardless, we Association members are a part of the enduring legend of several young women's commitment to creating a "center of literary and intellectual activity."

It has certainly been quite a busy year for the Brewster Ladies' Library and its staff as reflected in Brittany's report (see following). She has highlighted these events—including welcoming a beautiful daughter to the Taylor Robinson family. During her absence, the Board of Directors was very impressed with the cohesion of the staff; they worked together to allow this library to function seamlessly. It certainly helped that we had a thoughtful and diligent interim director, Mark Ziomek, who supported the staff during Brittany's absence and left the library with a love of this place, its staff, and patrons. It reinforces a statement that I have made many times: this staff makes the library a more vibrant and loved place and the Association benefits hugely from that fact.

And the board has been busy! We have continued to support the library with purchases of books, digital materials, and technology; we provided tuition for staff development; we again sponsored the very popular Sunday Winter Concert Series; purchased books for the Food4Kids program; and provided additional lighting for the increasingly spacious and well-shelved basement for the Book Sales. We worked with the town and the BLL staff union, at Brittany's request, to add domestic partners to the bereavement and family leave provisions and ensured that the BLL Volunteer Coordinator was adequately compensated for the work she has done for the Association. We awarded four graduating Brewster students scholarships for their first year of post-high school education. Given the multiple responsibilities placed on the staff to prepare for the Art Exhibitions each month, the board

# President's Report, Continued

agreed to take over responsibility for that program. Finally, last year I mentioned that the town and Association had joined together to have a complete review of the condition of the library building as well as possibilities for a limited scope renovation. We are now in the process of reviewing the draft of the building review report, have a strong understanding of the repairs that will need to be done over the course of the next several years, but are yet to have the information that we seek relative to a possible expansion or reconfiguration of space. We look forward to learning and sharing more information about this over the course of the next several months.

While we said goodbye to 3 wonderful members of the board last year, we brought on 3 talented individuals who have continued the tradition of filling the holes and offering their own time and talents to produce great work. One aspect of that was our recently introduced Brewster Ladies' Library Association website. At the Annual Meeting, we welcomed another new board member who brings to the board a wealth of expertise and experience. This year we again received a strong response to our announcement of a board vacancy—including from an individual who lives west of Boston, but declared this her favorite library and indicated that she wanted to move to be able to be a part of what makes this such a wonderful place!

One final word about being President of the Board: I have been honored to serve in this role for the last 2 years. While it involved a lot of work and a steep learning curve, the support that I have received from the board, the staff, members of the Association and patrons makes this work so worthwhile. I am very proud to be a part of this Association. I am also delighted that Frank Schroth will be taking over the role at the end of this meeting. When Frank came on to the board 3 years ago, his wisdom, experience, thoughtfulness, and problem-solving skills were readily evident. We are very lucky to have him taking on this role.

Finally, in the past several years, not only has the library patronage increased incrementally, but our membership has risen dramatically, as we ended this fiscal year with nearly 800 members. The impact of this is that we have a very crowded Membership Breakfast in May, but more importantly, we are recipients of hours of volunteering, innumerable donations of talents and financial support, and sustained enthusiasm for what the library and Association offer. While we know there are challenges ahead, with your support and energy, we will continue to help this beloved library to flourish. Thank you.



# Library Director's Report

BRITTANY TAYLOR



I am honored to present this year's Annual Director's Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. While a lot has changed since my first report both for myself and the Library, I remain deeply proud of the incredible work this Library continues to do. Thanks to our exceptional staff, tireless volunteers, hardworking Board of Directors and committee members, supportive community partners, and, of course, our steadfast Brewster Ladies' Library Association members, the BLL remains a vital resource for the Brewster community—offering diverse materials, innovative services,

vibrant spaces, and fun, meaningful programming to patrons of all ages.

## Building & Grounds

Fiscal Year 2024/25 brought progress and improvements to the Brewster Ladies' Library's building and grounds that enhanced the safety and functionality of the Library while ensuring that it remains a warm and welcoming space for the community. A new elevator, providing more dependable accessibility for patrons and staff, was installed and fully operational by January 2025 in spite of unexpected setbacks impacting both the timeline and the budget. We also completed important safety and security upgrades through a capital project which added new security cameras, panic and lockdown buttons for use in the event of an external threat, as well as a new security computer with updated monitoring software. These enhancements improve our emergency preparedness and ensure the safety of all in the building.

BGTV and the Library partnered to upgrade the Auditorium's video equipment. New video cameras, owned and operated by BGTV, will improve their ability to record events and programs at the Library.





# Library Director's Report, Continued

Lastly, the Town contracted with the Spencer Preservation Group to develop a facility conditions assessment for the Library. Currently in draft form, this assessment is a valuable step in determining future building plans and capital improvement decisions.

## BLL Staff

After over a year of staffing shifts and shortages, the BLL was excited to fill all of its vacant positions in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. In July 2024, Lisa Lapidus was hired as the Assistant Circulation Manager. Bringing prior library experience and a positive attitude, Lisa is a welcome addition to the circulation team, quickly taking on her own tasks, assisting Circulation Manager Joanne Clingan with others, and even becoming the point person for the Boomerang Bags group. Nika Scott rounded out the permanent staff in August 2025 when she came aboard as the Assistant Youth Services Librarian. Nika's creativity immediately made an impact in the Children's room with new decorations, including an igloo made from donated milk jugs, fun scavenger hunts, and amazing crafts each month. Phil Inman also joined the BLL staff this year as a library substitute. A shift supervisor and senior library tech at Brooks Free Library for 23 years and the Director of the Jacob Sears Memorial Library in Dennis since 2006, Phil brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our wonderful group of substitutes.

During my parental leave this spring following the birth of my daughter, Isla, Mark Ziomek stepped in as Interim Director. Working part-time throughout his tenure, Mark provided steady leadership until my return at the beginning of June. With these talented additions and strong interim leadership, the Library has emerged from a year of transition with renewed stability, energy, and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

## Library Services

Always aiming to meet the evolving needs of the community, the Brewster Ladies' Library continued to enhance and expand its collections, services, and resources.

One of the exciting additions this year was the launch of the Library's World Languages Corner. Spearheaded by Assistant Director Devon Evans, this small but growing collection features books in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian—languages selected based on patron interest and community demographics.

The BLL Library of Things also saw the addition of several new items. These included two additional Wi-Fi hotspots (bringing the total to ten) just in time to meet increased summer demand, a new metal detector, and a second sewing machine.





## Library Director's Report, Continued

Four Roku's were also added to the collection, which, along with "Streaming 101" and "Streaming 102" educational programs run by Assistant Reference Librarian/Computer Tech Stephen Allen, give patrons the opportunity to learn more about accessing streaming materials, or testing streaming services at home before subscribing.

We were pleased to add passes to the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum, the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum, and the Cape Cod Maritime Museum this year as well. While our museum passes, paid for through the support of the BLLA, are always popular, these additions provide families with more opportunities to visit local educational spaces for free or at a discount.

Additionally, the Seed Library was revitalized with help from Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Elliott-Grunes. This initiative allows patrons to "borrow" seeds as a way to promote gardening, biodiversity, and community sharing. While not required, patrons are encouraged to return or share seeds from their harvest to the Library, replenishing the supply for others. Plans to seek further donation sources for the Seed Library in the coming year are already underway.

The Library introduced a dedicated low vision computer station to better support visually impaired patrons. This workstation features a large print, illuminated keyboard and a terminal with increased font and icon size, made possible by Stephen's thoughtful technical adjustments.

Finally, in the Circulation Department, a significant behind-the-scenes improvement was the transition to a new Serials Module, which has streamlined magazine cataloging and improved efficiency, allowing staff to get the latest magazines out on the shelves even more quickly than before. While often the unsung heroes of the Library, the Circulation staff has worked diligently this year not only to implement these back-end improvements but also to update and refine internal procedures—from lost and found tracking to art sale logistics—ensuring a smoother experience for staff and patrons alike.

### Outreach

The Library continued its strong focus on community outreach, collaborating with local organizations to address social issues and support civic engagement. Creating space for meaningful dialogue on cultural belonging, identity, and tolerance, the Library, in partnership with the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission, Belonging Books, Building a Bigger Table, and the Refugee Support Team of the



# Library Director's Report, Continued



Nauset Interfaith Association, hosted an author talk with Terry Farish and Lochan Sharma who co-wrote *Go Home*, a young adult novel that deals with racism and the perception of immigrants. Programs like the Banned Book Club and a virtual event with anti-censorship advocate Amanda Jones promoted intellectual freedom and the value of diverse perspectives in literature and otherwise.

The BLL was also especially proud to work with local nonprofit Sharing Kindness, along with representatives from the Eastham Public Library and the Hyannis Public Library, to bring grief literacy programming and resources to libraries across the Cape and Islands. Through this collaboration and a grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, a Grief 101 program and "grief backpacks" for children that contain books and information about coping with grief for young children made it to libraries in 11 of the 15 towns on the Cape and both of the Islands; also developed was a webpage of resources that libraries can add to their websites to assist their communities.

## Conclusion

Despite these accomplishments and the local support enjoyed by the Library, the BLL is not immune to the impact of the current administration's fiscal policies. The elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through Executive Order 14238, significantly reduced funding for libraries nationwide. This loss has forced the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Massachusetts Library System to adjust their budgets in an effort to preserve critical library services, specifically research databases, the eBook program, and the Commonwealth Catalog. However, even with this work on the state level, the federal cuts have created ripple effects that we are already beginning to feel. There are fewer eMaterials available with longer wait times and certain databases are gone entirely. As a result, the need for local support is more important than ever.

In the face of the pressure placed on our budget from the federal level, the Brewster Ladies' Library remains resilient and forward-looking. Our ability to provide consistent, high-quality services in the face of tightening budgets speaks volumes about the strength of our community and the dedication of those who support our mission. I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped make this year a success—from our staff and volunteers to our patrons and donors to every Association member. Looking ahead, we know that sustained advocacy and local investment will be essential to maintaining the level of service our patrons have come to rely on. Thank you for the ongoing commitment to the Brewster Ladies' Library as we continue to work, adapt, grow, and serve as a cornerstone for learning, creativity, community, and connection in Brewster.

# The Year in Review

## THE 2024 NICKERSON LECTURE

By Pat Meservey



The 10th Annual Frances Mapes Nickerson Memorial Lecture took place on October 5, 2024, featuring Michael Beschloss. Mr. Beschloss serves as the NBC Presidential Historian and among his ten published books are titles such as *Presidents of War*, *Presidential Courage*, *The Conquerors*, *Taking Charge*, and *Reaching for Glory* (focused on President Lyndon Johnson's tapes). In his presentation, Mr. Beschloss provided a historical perspective of the then upcoming November presidential election and offered commentary on the significant changes in our national politics. Over 1,000 patrons attended the event which was held at the Nauset Regional Middle School. Due to an infestation of yellow jackets, the event was moved from the auditorium to the gymnasium. This physical and technical challenge was managed by our wonderful volunteers and with the generous support of the school staff.

Organizing the Nickerson Lecture demands significant effort from our library staff and volunteers, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed to this year's success. We eagerly anticipate the 2025 Nickerson Lecture featuring musician, author, and educator Brendan Slocumb this fall. While attendance is free for the public, we kindly encourage donations to support the Library.

# The Year in Review

**2024 - 2025 MEMBERSHIP**

By Regina Hayes

2024-2025 year was a big one for the Brewster Ladies' Library Association, with membership reaching 745, an all-time high. July is Membership month at the Library, and a Membership table outside the annual Book Sale offered merchandise such as hats, t-shirts, and tote bags, as well as information on becoming an Association member.

In December, a holiday Open House welcomed members in the Historic Room. And shortly after the new year, planning began for the annual Members Breakfast, always a popular event, which takes place on the Friday of Brewster in Bloom weekend at the beginning of May. This year the capacity crowd was treated to the first announcement of the Nickerson Lecture speaker, musician and author Brendan Slocumb. The Brewster Ladies' Library is fortunate to enjoy a lively and dedicated Membership!



# The Year in Review

## 2024 - 2025 BOOK SALE

By MaryJo Murphy

The Brewster Ladies' Library Book Sale had another successful year. Historically, the sale runs the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. Because of necessary repairs to the elevator, the 2024 sale operated from the last week of June through the first two weeks of July.

Our winter sale took place from the first Sunday in November through the end of March. Between July 1, 2024, and May 15, 2025, the book sale at the main library—including books and puzzles—raised over \$27,000

Visitors coming to our Sunday sales were very pleased to see a fresh layout of stacks, making it easier to peruse the shelves.

The many patrons who donate hundreds of books are an integral part of the sale's success. Volunteers, who contributed more than 2,300 hours last year, make the book sale happen. After they accept books from the public, they begin the process of pricing and shelving, while always looking for ways to improve the patrons' experience.



# The Year in Review



2024 - 2025 DISCOVER & ENRICHMENT

By Pat Meservey

**DISCOVERY & ENRICHMENT**

## Brewster Schools – A Legacy Of Learning

In partnership with the Brewster Historical Society and educators Katherine Atwater and Kierstyn Boht

June 18th, 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 PM  
at the Brewster Ladies' Library,  
1822 Main St, Brewster, MA

Register online at:  
[brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar](http://brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar)

## Osprey:

Egg Incubation, Chick Rearing and Wild Fostering

With Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director, Wild Care, Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director, Wild Care, will share the intensive work of wild fostering Osprey chicks. The presentation will include a history of Osprey on Cape Cod, coexisting with Osprey, and the legalities of working with Osprey nests, eggs, and chicks. It is a true conservation success story!

April 3rd, 2025 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM  
At the Brewster Ladies' Library –  
Register Online at  
[BrewsterLadiesLibrary.org/calendar](http://BrewsterLadiesLibrary.org/calendar)

## At the Crossroads: Brewster's Environmental Challenges

Tough Questions.  
Tough Decisions.

A 3-Part Series at  
The Brewster Ladies' Library  
1822 Main St., Brewster

JAN. 15, 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
COASTAL EROSION

FEB. 19, 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
WATER QUALITY

MAR. 26, 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
TREES & FORESTS

Jan. 15 Coastal Erosion: A history of the sea in Brewster. Register at [brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar](http://brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar)

Feb. 19 Water Quality: A history of the water in Brewster. Register at [brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar](http://brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar)

Mar. 26 Trees & Forests: A history of the forests in Brewster. Register at [brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar](http://brewsterladieslibrary.org/calendar)

FREE      FREE      FREE

REGISTER AT [BREWSTERLADIESLIBRARY.ORG/CALENDAR](http://BREWSTERLADIESLIBRARY.ORG/CALENDAR)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE. DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Sponsored by  
Brewster Conservation Trust and  
The Brewster Ladies' Library Association  
For more information: [BC@brewsterconservationtrust.org](mailto:BC@brewsterconservationtrust.org)

The Discovery & Enrichment Programming continues to attract exceptional talent to our Library. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, D&E hosted 19 programs, engaging over 1,000 patrons. The topics covered were as varied as the delivery methods utilized. We launched our year with an inspiring conversation about Thriving in Adversity and dove into a series of topics of national interest. Grappling with the very difficult topics of youth suicide, cognitive health, and defining clinical death, we hope to make information about challenging issues available to our community members. In the winter, we partnered with the Brewster Conservation Trust and offered a three-part series on concerns with our environment. On a lighter note, our programs touched on animals in our world, history of our town, and fascinating events in our past. A wonderful schedule is already underway for Fall 2025. We appreciate the numerous suggestions we receive for future programs and encourage your contributions. Please keep an eye on our monthly newsletter for updates throughout the year. While presentations are free for the public, we kindly request donations to support the Library.

# The Year in Review

## 2024 - 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

### FY 2024-2025 BLLA FINANCIAL DATA

Association Revenue	\$ 257,945
Association Expenses	\$ 216,135
Town Operating Expenses	\$ 824,753
Total Library Expenses	\$ 1,040,899

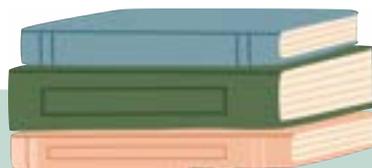
Town Contribution	79%
Association Contribution	21%

The Association budgeted to nearly break even at a \$99 net income. Revenue higher than budget due to one-time large donations totaling \$47,500 and more smaller donations totaling \$13,000.

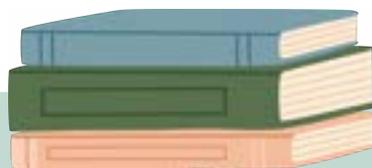
The used book sale generated sales of over \$27,000.

Not included above:

- Realized gains/losses from endowment and investment portfolio of \$149,500
- Expense for annual Nickerson lecture, \$64,500 funded through endowment donations from prior years.



- **Library Visitors: 65,832**
- **New Borrowers: 719**
- **Newsletter Subscribers: 3,684**
- **Total Brewster Card Holders: 7,712**
- **Items Borrowed by Brewster Patrons: 8,374**
- **Holds Placed by Brewster patrons: 4,039**
- **Items Borrowed from CLAMS from other Networks: 98,005**
- **Total Physical Items Circulated: 132,986**



- **Overdrive Circulation: 44,080**
- **Adult Programs: 211**
- **Adult Attendance: 3,614**
- **Youth Programs: 148**
- **Youth Attendance: 4,876**
- **All Ages Programs: 32**
- **All Ages Attendance: 462**
- **Meeting Room Usage: 607**
- **Concerts: 11**
- **Concert Attendance: 906**

# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Eileen Bergquist named 2025 Sarah Augusta Mayo Award Winner



Named for one of the two founders of the Brewster Ladies' Library, the Sarah Augusta Mayo Award was established in 1998 to recognize outstanding service and contribution to the Library by a volunteer. Since then, 43 exceptional recipients have been honored. This year, we are proud to add Eileen Bergquist as the 44th member to this illustrious group.

Eileen has exemplified steadfast leadership, relentless mediation skills, and an unwavering

commitment to both the Brewster Ladies' Library Association and the broader ideals of community service. While officially on the BLLA Board of Directors for 11 years, she has served the Board even longer than that. Following a 3 year stint on the Board in the early 2010s, she was asked to consult with the Board during a turbulent period of transition and dissension. Since then, she officially returned to the Board as Interim President in 2018 and has stayed on to serve two additional terms, serving on various committees, including Membership, Discovery & Enrichment, and Scholarship.

Before joining the BLLA, Eileen boasted an impressive career as a Vice President of Human Resources in the cutthroat world of Boston Tech. She managed executives, guided mergers, and navigated corporate conflicts and egos with equal parts grace and grit. Whether she was settling a workplace feud or drafting a complex policy, Eileen accomplished it with poise, precision, and seeming ease.

After raising three children alongside her husband, Dick, and building a life in Foxboro, Eileen and Dick eventually retired to Brewster, where the Brewster Ladies' Library was lucky enough to come onto her radar. Having the extensive aforementioned leadership and arbitration skills and having served on other nonprofit boards and committees, Eileen brought organizational insight, compassionate



# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Eileen Bergquist named 2025 Sarah Augusta Mayo Award Winner, Continued

mentorship, and conflict resolution to a BLLA board that was desperately in need of this expertise at the time.

Beyond her structural contributions, Eileen also became the Board's unofficial historian and, more importantly, its heart and soul. She ensured that every new Board member understood the Association's mission, its workings, and its potential for impact, encouraging each one to find his or her passion and work collaboratively. For more than a decade, this support has never diminished - making calls and checking in to compliment, problem solve, advise, uplift, and offer help, always ending with a reassuring "okay, my dear, keep up the good work."

Eileen arrived on the Board at a crucial moment when she was just what it needed: a steady hand, a wise voice, a leader and a unifier. While it will be impossible to fully replace Eileen, the Board will continue to strive to uphold the values she embodies: compassion, understanding, dedication, and heart. Eileen righted the Library ship and helped to move it smoothly forward when it needed it most.

The whole Brewster Ladies' Library wishes Eileen the sincerest congratulations on a well-deserved honor!



# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS



### The Brewster Ladies' Library Association Scholarship Program

In the fall of 2021, the BLLA board established an annual scholarship in the amount of \$2500 to be awarded to a deserving Brewster graduating senior; in 2022 the board decided to award a second scholarship in the same amount. Brewster graduating students planning to attend a two or four year accredited college or university, or vocational/technical school of higher learning were eligible to apply. Since the spring of 2023, the Scholarship Committee reached out not only to Nauset Regional High School seniors, but also to those Brewster students who attended other high school programs on Cape Cod. With the support of the board, the Committee voted to award four \$2500 scholarships for this year.

In addition to being a Brewster resident at the time of application, the selection criteria included:

- Acknowledgement of financial need
- Grade Point Average
- Participation in extracurricular organizations
- Volunteer work
- Employment records during high school years
- Articulation of future goals and objectives

This spring, the committee, which included 3 board members (Eileen Bergquist, Lauren Dreyer, and Lisa Perkins) and two members from the community-at-large (Emily Degnan and Catherine Graciano), reviewed 11 strong applications-10 of which were students at NRHS and one from Cape Cod Regional Tech. Due to their strong academic records and overall profiles, four students from NRHS were selected by the committee and recommended to and approved by the BLLA Board of Directors.



# The Year in Review

## 2024 - 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### The Scholarship Recipients



**Dominic Bebber:** Dominic is attending the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Medicine, with a goal of becoming a physician.

**Tanner Dustin:** Tanner is attending UMass Amherst's Isenberg School of Business, with a goal of a business career.

**Isabel Corella:** Isabel is attending Salve Regina University, with a goal of becoming a lawyer.

**Jayda Davis:** Jayda has headed to Curry College, with a goal of going into business and finance.

# The Year in Review

## 2024 - 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Volunteers Make It Happen



This year, the Brewster Ladies' Library was once again fortunate to benefit from the time, talent, and dedication of over 190 incredible volunteers, who devoted 9,121 hours to support both the Library's daily operations and its special events. Highlights included their work at the two 2024 Nickerson Lectures, Beautify Brewster, Brewster in Bloom, and the town's Juneteenth celebration, and the return of the Oral History group. Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Elliott-Grunes also rebranded the Library's former homebound delivery service to "Outreach Delivery," and volunteers now provide expanded access to library materials for patrons facing challenges that keep them from physically visiting the library.

Along with this internal support, our volunteers, led by Lauren, helped the Library give back to the broader community through charitable initiatives. The "Love Your Neighbor" food drive collected two packed van-loads of donations for the Wampanoag Food Pantry, marking the Library's first delivery to this location, which was very well-received. During the holiday season, the Library, through the Department of Children and Families' "Giving Tree" program, fulfilled the gift wishes of 58 local children in need through collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), bringing joy and comfort to families across Cape Cod. These efforts underscore the spirit of compassion and community that our volunteers bring to everything they do.

# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Little Free Libraries

By Ross Gorman



The Little Free Libraries, situated at beaches, parks, and recreational areas continue to flourish. We stocked 1351 titles this season, well below historic numbers, but that's good news! People are really adapting to the concept of "take one, leave one."

Frequently, the Crosby Beach box was stuffed full of books in great condition. We have an angel watching

over that location and filling it often, as was the case at the Nickerson location. And other locations as well. Captains Golf Course continues to have tremendous give-and-take—I would estimate double that of any other location. The Paines Creek Box had the least activity: I suspect it was due to its placement, which is out of the way and not particularly visible. In thinking about an alternative spot, ideas include the Sea Camps-beach path or pool; Town Office; or Whitecaps ticket table... Please let us know your thoughts!

#### **Maintenance:**

This winter I will repair the box doors and touch up the paint as usual.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

It was again a fun season. The volunteers were as wonderful and committed to community service as ever. Many thanks to Valerie Bradley and Mark Finkelstein for keeping the Little Free Libraries full and to Lauren Elliott-Grunes and Rick Cronin for keeping inventory available.



# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### BLLA Website

By Pat Semple

Thanks to the dedicated work of committee members Frank Schroth, Brittany Taylor, Lisa Perkins, Pat Meservey, Anne Weirich, and Patrick DePratti, the Brewster Ladies' Library Association now has its own website. You can reach us directly using our URL, [bll-assoc.org](http://bll-assoc.org), or through the Library's website using the DONATE or BLLA MEMBERSHIP option in the menus on the homepage. Our reason for creating a separate website was threefold:

1. To more clearly explain and illustrate our role as the entity that governs the library and raises money on it's behalf;
2. To do a better job promoting and describing our initiatives, such as our scholarship program, the Nickerson Lecture, the Discovery & Enrichment series, and our book sale events; and
3. To give you, the members of the association, a single landing place for all your interactions with us, be it renewing your membership or contacting us with a question or suggestion.

This fall, we have plans to expand the website. We hope to have a page that better describes the mechanics and the benefits of planned giving; while this is something that people will of course take up with their financial advisors, we want to provide you with an outline of why and how you might consider this option. We also want to more fully document our past Nickerson Lecturers and the Discovery & Enrichment presenters; success begets success, and keeping a publicly available list of past presentations and presenters will support the popularity of these events going forward.

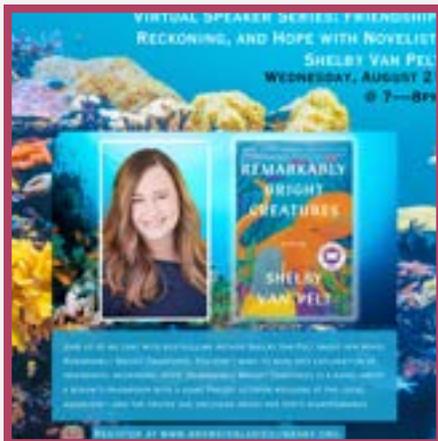
The goal of our committee is to use the website to further promote everything that you, the membership, have made possible. Thank you!



# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Adult Programs



The Brewster Ladies' Library continued to serve as a vibrant hub of learning, creativity, and connection, offering a diverse and engaging lineup of programs for patrons of all ages. In total, the Library hosted 408 programs, drawing nearly 10,000 attendees. For the 211 adult programs, the Library was proud to offer standout events such as The Twilight Zone Night movie matinee, which celebrated the 65th anniversary of the classic television show with screenings, games, and prizes, the popular Summer & Winter Concert Series, and a visit from PBS Host and cookbook author Mary Ann Esposito.

The BLL also offered practical programs like the Ask the Tax Guy sessions to support residents during tax season and a Fix It Clinic, where volunteers helped community members repair broken items rather than discard them. Supporting the Town of Brewster in its sustainability efforts, the Library continued to organize environmentally-focused efforts like our monthly Boomerang Bags sewing workshops.

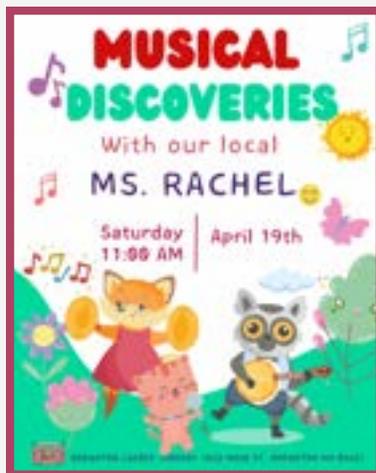
Furthermore, the Library was pleased to continue its membership in the Library Speakers Consortium, giving patrons access to virtual talks from bestselling authors and thought-leaders throughout the year. While the 4,955 total views touched on a variety of offerings, notable featured speakers included authors Jodi Picoult, Lianne Moriarty, Shelby Van Pelt, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

Other adult programming highlights included a successful "Read, Renew, Repeat" adult summer reading program with over 80 participants, monthly yoga classes, weekly tech help drop in, needlepoint classes, various author events, and much more!

# The Year in Review

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Youth Programs



With a full staff and some new creativity, the Youth Services department managed an even busier schedule for 2024/2025, delivering a vibrant lineup of activities for Brewster children and families. Kicking off the fiscal year, the "Slow Down and Read" themed 2024 Summer Reading Program had 165 registrants and featured captivating events like Trevor the Juggler and special Storytimes with Smokey Bear, the Whitecaps, and the Fire Department!

Throughout the rest of the year, Youth Services Librarian Michelle's Storytimes continued to be a juggernaut of programming with the year's 88 total Storytimes bringing in over 3,200 children and their caregivers. Regular programming like Nintendo Switch Tournaments, Lego Club, and Toddler Town were joined by new recurring events like memorable movie matinees such as "Cars" (where each attendee got to sit in and decorate their own cardboard car), new craft offerings, monthly scavenger hunts, and, thanks to Stephen Allen, new Dungeon & Dragons and Pokemon and Magic: The Gathering groups.

# The Year in Review

## 2024 - 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

### Youth Programs, Continued

One of the year's more noteworthy initiatives was DiNo-venber, where, for the month of November, Nika Scott and volunteer Molly Savage transformed the Kids' Room into a prehistoric paradise, complete with themed Storytimes, a popular "dino feet" craft activity, two scavenger hunts, and a "dino tape" walking maze.

The annual Halloween Parade, which brought in around 160 participants in fun costumes, was another standout. With help from the Brewster Recreation Department and the Brewster Police Department, this year's parade expanded its route to include the Brewster Inn & Chowder House and Brewster Baptist Church, along with the usual stops at the First Parish Church and Brewster General Store, where Paul Kehoe once again delighted attendees with songs.

Along with the fresh rotation of festive decorations each season, the BLL's Children's Area received a new train table and play kitchen set that visitors to the room could enjoy. Thanks to funds from the Eddy Grant, the Children's area also received a new mobile shelving unit that provides better lines of sight and improved flexibility to the space. Through these updates to the section, thoughtful collection development, and imaginative programming, the BLL has been particularly proud this year to provide a welcoming, interactive space for kids and their caregivers to play, socialize, and explore.



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