

Shelter Island Public Library Society



Sustainable Libraries Initiative Presentation

April, 2023

Who We Are

Shelter Island is an 8,000 square foot island located between the two forks of eastern Long Island. We can be reached by a short ferry ride. The Shelter Island Public Library Society was established in 1885 in an old shoe closet in the general store.

The current library building was opened in 1965. We serve the 3,253 year round residents of the Island as well as the up to 10,000 summer visitors. The Library is the hub of this small community, acting as a meeting place, a place to take care of business, a place for teens to gather after school and, of course, a place providing all of the traditional and not-so-traditional library services



The Green Team

We began exploring the idea of making the Library more sustainable in 2019. Our team decided to become a Green Business Partner and after some time we were certified on January 31, 2020. We then decided to seek certification under the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. The Green Team shrunk to two people and our progress was slow but we have finally completed the necessary tasks. We are excited to move forward in a way that pays attention always to the triple bottom line and the special needs of this island community.

Collective Impact

The Shelter Island Library makes every effort to collaborate with the Town Government, the School District, local businesses, local nonprofits and our neighbors. We present programs, provide information and provide meeting space for these individuals and entities. Some examples of these collaborations are shown on the following slides.

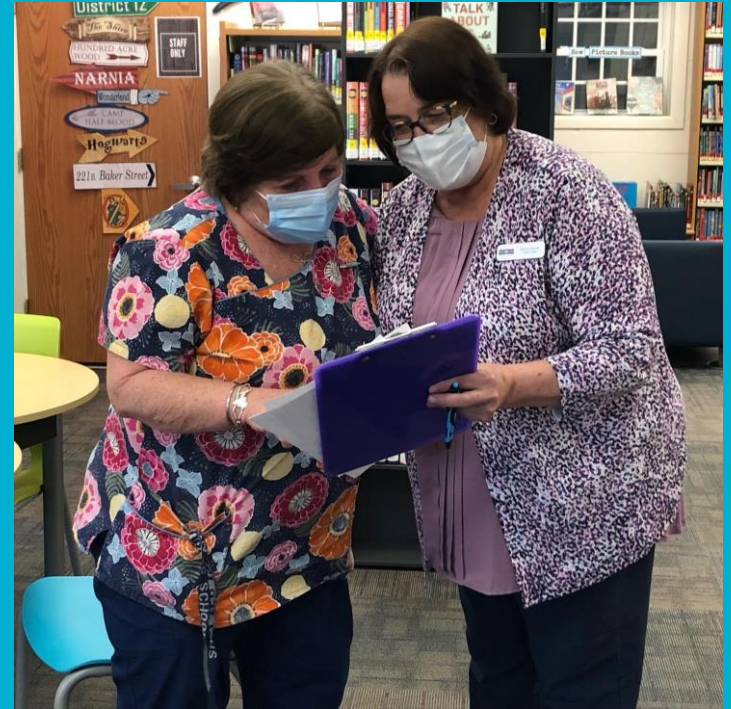
Clothing Swap

A group of local women have decided to keep clothes out of the landfill by holding monthly clothing swaps under the Library tent. They bring the clothes and the Library provides tables, storage space when possible and access to a bathroom and water.



Vaccination Clinics

Working with the school nurse and the Senior Center the Library has hosted clinics for flu, shingles, pneumonia, and covid vaccinations. The Senior Center handles registration, Nurse Mary obtains a pharmacist and the Library helps to manage registration and the people who come for their shots.



Shelter Island Health and Wellness Alliance

This group was formed during the pandemic and the Library has been a partner with them in presenting many programs focusing on social justice and mental health. We annually partner with the Alliance and the town in putting on a Vigil of Hope in remembrance of those who have lost their lives to substance abuse.



Shelter Island School and Town Government

The Library often works with the Shelter Island School and Town Government in a number of ways, including:

- Providing space for students to take ACT, SAT and AP tests
- Displaying student art and running an annual student film festival
- Providing space for Town meetings about important issues
- Providing a private space for the Town Social Worker to meet clients
- Hosting tech classes to work with the 3D printer and our VR equipment

Other Community Partners

- Chamber of Commerce
- League of Women Voters
- Shelter Island Educational Foundation
- Shelter Island Historical Society
- Sylvester Manor Educational Farm
- Mashomack Preserve
- Shelter Island Senior Citizens Foundation
- Girl Scouts
- Various Neighborhood Associations
- Shelter Island Garden Club

Social Cohesion

The Shelter Island Public Library Society is actively committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. While the Island itself is not very diverse, we take action to have materials and programs that inform and educate. It is our belief that everyone is welcome in the Library and that everyone should be able to find themselves in our collection and choice of programs. In addition, we are committed to bringing together people of all ages in some of our programming. As we have a large senior population, we believe that it is important for that population to mix with a younger group and vice versa.



Photo: Jeremy Daniel, Shinnecock Preserve, 2016

A CALL FROM LONG ISLAND'S INDIGENOUS VOICES

FRIDAY, JULY 16TH @ 7PM ON ZOOM

REGISTER AT WWW.SILIBRARY.ORG

Please join **Chenae Bullock, Denise Silva-Dennis and Shane Weeks of the Shinnecock Nation** in a conversation about the history, challenges and opportunities of the indigenous people on the East End. The discussion will be moderated by Shelter Island's **Aterahme Lawrence**.

Sponsored by the Shelter Island Health and Wellness Alliance and the Shelter Island Library. Fourth in the Necessary Bridges Series.



Other Displays Not Pictured:

- Pride Month
- Women's History Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Native American Heritage Month

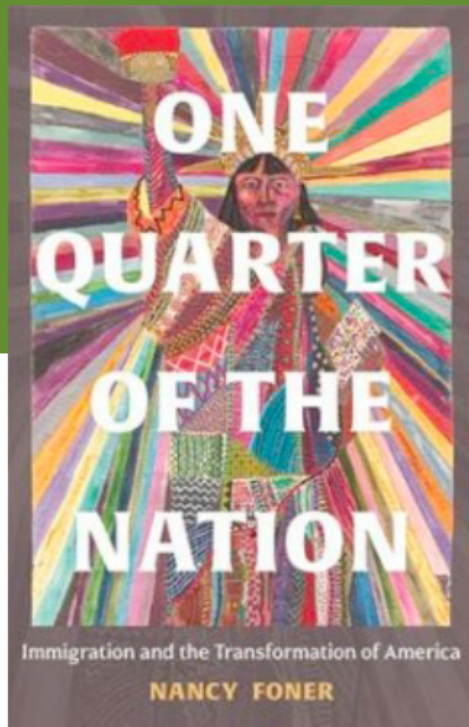
SON OF THE SOUTH

Robert Zellner in conversation with Diane McWhorter

FEBRUARY 19TH @ 7PM ON ZOOM

Please join renowned civil rights leader **Robert Zellner** for a conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Diane McWhorter** on his lifetime of activism as portrayed in the upcoming film *"Son of the South."* This is the third program of the *Necessary Bridges* series sponsored by the Shelter Island Public Library and the Shelter Island Health and Wellness Alliance. Register online at www.silibrary.org





Friday Night Dialogue

*One Quarter of the
Nation* with Nancy Foner

Friday, December 9th
7:00 pm

Visit the [Shelter Island Public Library](#) website to register for this program.

An astonishing number of immigrants and their children now live in the United States. While many books look at how America has changed contemporary immigrants, *One Quarter of the Nation* examines how they have transformed America in profound and far-reaching ways that go to the heart of the country's identity and institutions.

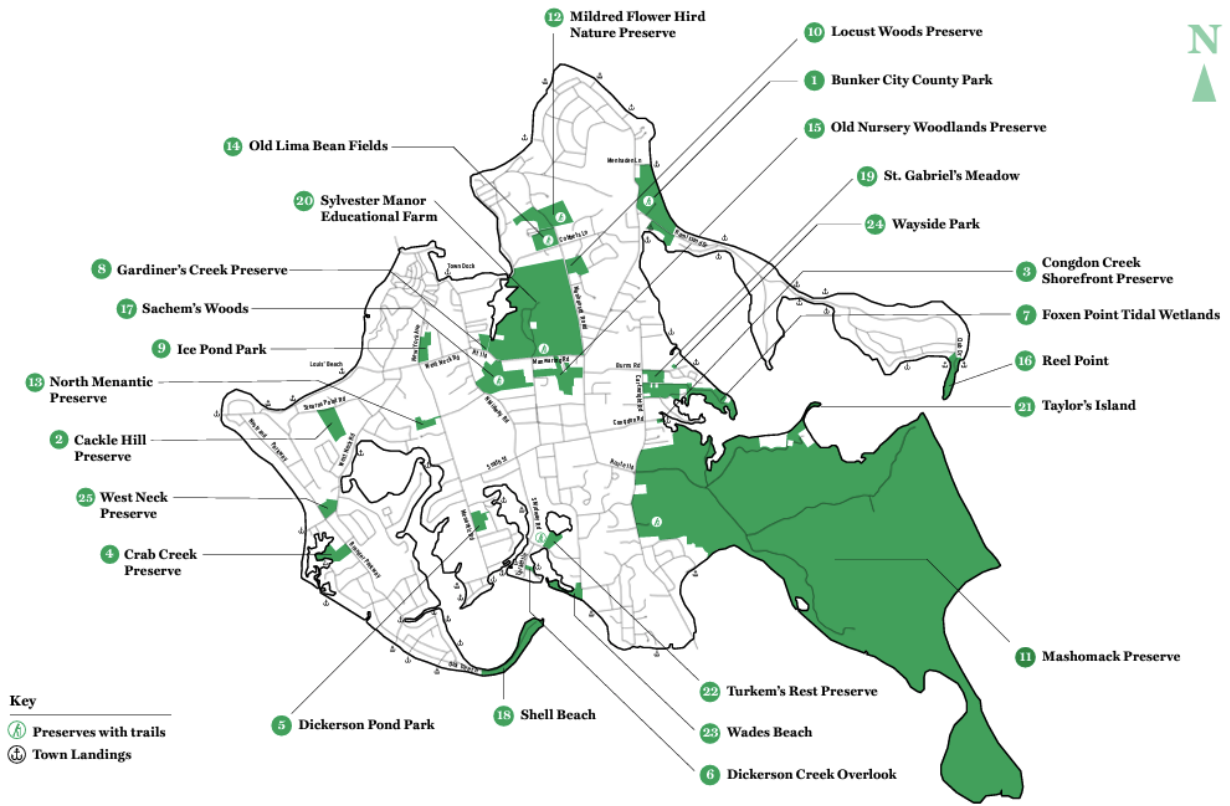


Our Cookbook Club and Murder Mystery Nights bring in both younger and older patrons, giving them a chance to meet and get to know each other in a relaxed setting.



Resiliency Planning

Shelter Island is lucky to have abundant open space and the community is concerned with preserving the beauty of the island. Climate change is a great concern as water levels rise and shore lines disappear. The Shelter Island Library runs numerous programs, provides information and tries to model good behavior with respect to precious resources.



Seed Library

The Shelter Island Library has had a seed library since 2016. Many of the seeds are donated and some are harvested by patrons. We run programs about native plants and best practices for growing and propagating. These programs are often done in collaboration with the farmers from Sylvester Manor.



Mulch used seeds from the seed library to grow their new favorite plant.



Thank you to the following companies and organizations for your generous support of our Seed Library:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

Friends of the Shelter Island Public Library

High Mowing Seed Company

Seed Savers Exchange

Slow Food East End

Sylvester Manor Educational Farm





Seed Sowing and Clay Pot Decoupage

Saturday, April 22nd, 11:00 am



Join us as we celebrate the official start to spring planting! Come learn about our seed library collection and 'borrow' seeds for your garden. Vegetable, herb and flower seeds will all be available. While browsing for seeds, join us for a fun craft - Seed Packet Decoupage Clay Pots! We will provide a pot and an assortment of seed packets to choose from for decorating. When you get home you can begin planting! **Please note craft supplies are limited**

Visit the [Shelter Island Public Library](http://shelterislandpubliclibrary.org) website to register.



Shelter Island Public Library

37 No. Ferry Road P.O. Box 2016
Shelter Island, New York 11964 | (631) 749-0042
shelterislandpubliclibrary.org/

Pollinator Pathway

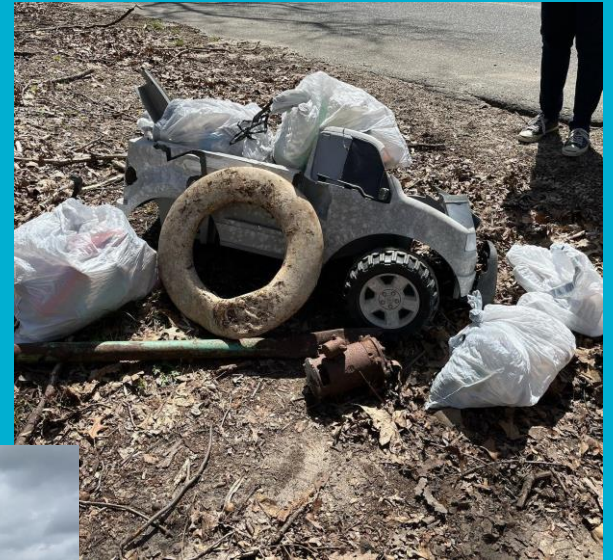
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In 2022, thanks to the work of the Shelter Island Garden Club, we were joined other public and private pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. On the Library property we avoid synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals



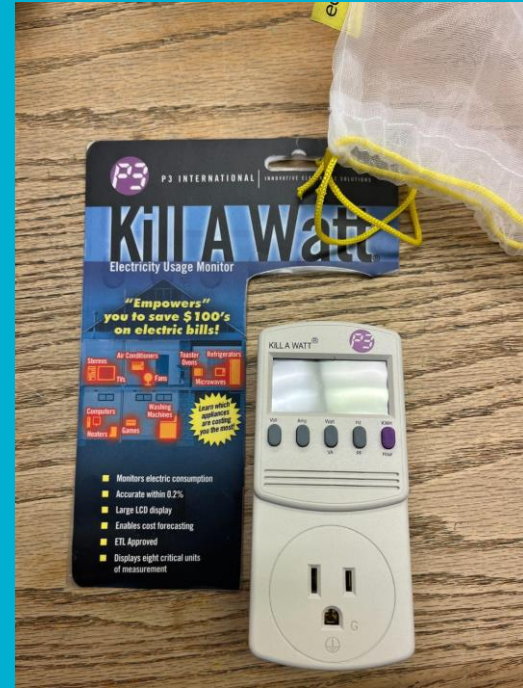
Beach/Forest Cleanups

In connection with the Great Give Back, we have invited people from the community to join us as we clean up our local beaches and woods. Our efforts are always well received and appreciated!



Library of Things

We encourage our patrons to check out items in our Library of Things, including a Kill A Watt device that measures the amount of electricity usage in a person's home - to encourage and empower people to reduce their usage and save on electric bills!



BIC Stationary Recycling Program and Big Green Box Battery Recycling

We encourage our patrons to drop off their writing instruments, like pens, mechanical pencils, paints, highlighters, etc and then we recycle these items because “every piece counts!”

We also have a Big Green Box for battery recycling that fills up and is shipped off regularly.



Financial Sustainability

The Shelter Island Library is a small organization with a small staff. The Library Director works with a Human Resources Committee of Trustees to annually review salaries and benefits to make sure that employees are adequately compensated. All employees, part-time and full time are granted vacation time, holidays and sick leave. After three years of employment the Library funds a retirement fund managed by that employee, part-time or full-time, at 10% of the employee's annual salary. The Library is audited annually and the 13 member Board of Trustees carefully stewards the tax revenue and donations.

We run a variety of programs to promote financial sustainability for all ages. These programs are always well-attended by our patrons.



Estate Planning 101

Monday, March 27th
1:00 pm

Join attorney Britt Burner, Esq. as she discusses the importance of having basic Estate Planning documents in place, including advance directives and durable Powers of Attorney. She will also discuss the difference between wills and trusts.

This program will take place on Zoom. Visit the [Shelter Island Public Library](#) website to register.



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Ready to Get Money Smart?

- 100% virtual
- Live events + select resources
- Focused on low and moderate income communities

[Register for Money Smart Week 2023](#)



April 17
Family Budgeting



April 18
Instituciones Financieras



April 19
Debt Relief



April 20
Employer Retirement Plans

Free. Virtual. Money Smart.

Collections and Services

The Shelter Island Library's collections are carefully selected to meet the needs and interests of all members of the community. Books that are out-of-date, in poor condition or contain incorrect information are weeded and recycled. We donate books to a local jail and leave a cart in front of the Library of free, donated or discarded books for community members to take and ask them to pass them along. We provide a number of services that are helpful to our patrons as well.

Collections

Our collections contain the traditional books, DVDs, periodicals, and books on CD.

In addition, we have a popular Library of Things with items both useful and fun.



CHECK OUT OUR LIBRARY OF THINGS!

BACKGAMMON
BADMINTON
BIRDING BACKPACKS
BOCCE
BUTTERFLY NET
CAKE PANS
COOKIE CUTTERS
DVD PLAYER
ELECTRICITY METER
GARDENING SUPPLIES
HOT SPOTS
KARAOKE MIC
MAH JONGG SET
SOIL TESTER
SPRINKLER

Services

We are aware that many easily accessible services for other Long Islanders are not as available to our community. Many services require the time and money to take a ferry ride to Greenport or Sag Harbor.

The Library is the only public place on the island to make a copy, fax or scan a document. We also provide Passport processing services, including taking the required photo. The Library director is a notary and available at no charge.

Need a Passport?

The Shelter Island Library is a Passport Acceptance Facility.

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

For more information about the application process or
to make an appointment please call the library at 631-749-0042

**Please Note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Processing Times Are Much Longer Than Usual,
Please Plan Accordingly**

18 Weeks for Regular Service

10 Weeks for Expedited Service

6 Weeks Before You Can Check the Status of Your Application

[Download Application Information Here](#)

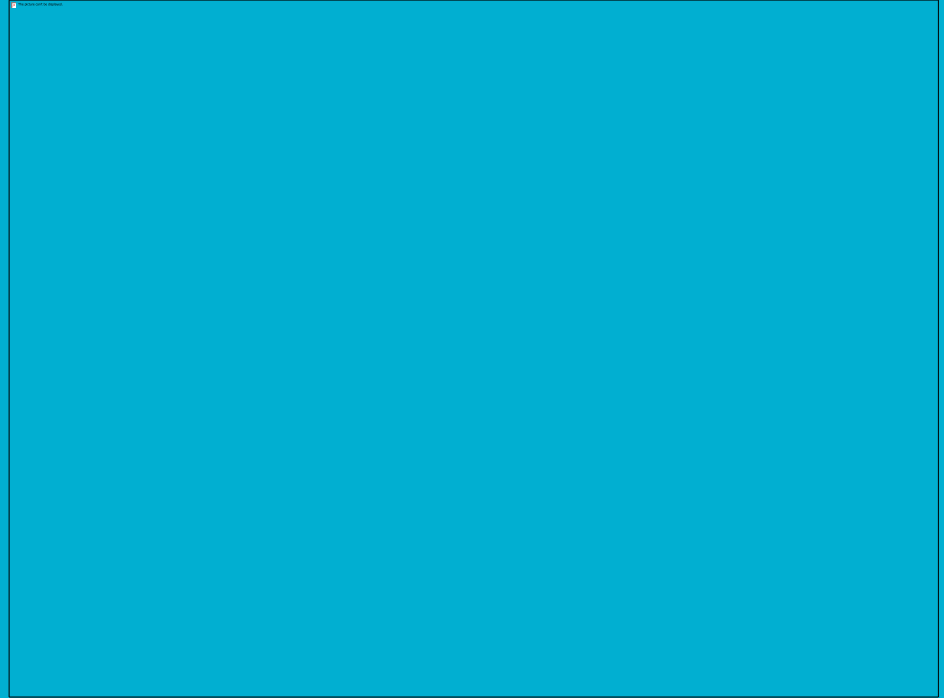
Did you know?

**We have
free Covid tests
at the library.
You may pick
them up at the
Circulation Desk.**

For much of the Pandemic the Library was a source of materials and information. We have also been able to provide free Covid tests for some time. As mentioned earlier, our Community Room has been used as a vaccination clinic, with a special emphasis on reaching out to our Spanish speaking population

We Are More than Books

We ran a campaign - “we are more than books” - to remind our community members that we do in fact offer a wide array of services, not limited to free books. We hold book clubs, exercise classes (Tai Chi), poetry meetups, and access to computers, printers, and so much more!





The Future

As the Library looks to the future, we hope to be able to expand in a sensible and sustainable way to make our space more user friendly and safe for the many roles it plays in the community. Our proposed design incorporates solar panels, EV charging stations, environmentally friendly waste disposal system, the use of recycled materials and more.

We are proud to have served this community - starting in a shoe closet 138 years ago - for so long. We hope to remain the heart of the Island for many years to come and to keep that heart beating in an sustainable way.