

Future Fun

- May 16** – Library Luau
- May 17** – Book Drive
- June 14** – Book Drive
- June 25** – Author Event,
Rick Herrick, *Choosing Love*
- June 26** – Biodiversity
Works: Vineyard Bats
- July 1** – Summer Reading
Kickoff
- July 9** – Author Event,
Gordon Martin, *Count Them One by One*
- July 10** – Biodiversity
Works: Coastal River
Otters
- July 17-19** – Annual Book
Sale
- July 19** – Christmas in
July
- July 24** – Stuffed Animal
Sleepover & Breakfast
- July 30** – Ladybug Girl
Visits the Library
- August 5** – Biodiversity
Works: The Scoop on
Skunks
- August 13** – HoopFest
- August 14** – Author Event,
Michael Blanding, *The Map Thief*
- August 19** – Illumination
Craft
- August 28** – Author Event,
Michael Tougias, *A Storm Too Soon; The Finest Hours*

A Quiet Revolution

Once upon a time the primary function of a public library was to lend books to its patrons. Not any more as far as the Oak Bluffs Public Library is concerned. Over the past year popular programs for young and old have proliferated until now about as many people visit the library for events, programs and seminars as come to borrow print books.

And chipping away at print books is the emerging popularity of e-books, with the advent of the Kindle in 2007, quickly followed by the Nook and the iPad. “The move to people reading digitally or buying digital books is the single biggest change that any of us in the book business will experience in our lifetime,” said an Amazon executive.

“Your library offers the availability of a virtual catalogue of digital books 24/7,” says Reference Librarian Miki Wolfe, a lean bundle of energy that cascades out of her in a rat-a-tat-tat of ideas. “The convenience of downloading a book on your Kindle or Nook or iPad free for two weeks is irresistible to many people.”

Miki helps many library patrons enter the digital world by providing various training sessions. For instance, she has touched on such topics as Learning the Basics of your iPhone and iPad and Basics of your Microsoft office suite of programs. And she runs a popular series called Tech Soup, where she explores such topics as Controlling your Digital Footprint, Photo sharing Apps and Step into the Computer World.

Miki is also responsible for much of the adult programming as well as setting up Lynda.com, an educational tool that provides over 19,000 video tutorials on technical topics, which is fully funded by LFOB. In addition, your library has some 35 computers for use by everyone.

Despite the gloomy predictions by some experts about the demise of print books, the Oak Bluffs library staff is optimistic about their future. “I think many people have reached a point where they are inundated by so much technology that reading a print book is a welcome reprieve,” says Library Director Sondra Murphy. §



Reference Librarian Miki Wolfe coaches computer users.