

PUBLIC LIBRARY



Rose Styron presents a program as part of the library's August "Artists and Authors" series.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Edgartown:

The year 2013 was one of renewed service to the public in the Edgartown Library's home of more than a century on North Water Street, and of continued progress toward construction of the new facility near the Edgartown School that will serve townspeople for generations to come. In March, 2013 the Library Trustees began the process of developing a new long-range plan. A planning committee led by Library Director, Jill Dugas Hughes and Trustee/Staff/Community representatives Deanna Ahearn-Laird, Les Baines, Elyce Bonnell, Herb Foster, Julie Lively, Paul Mohair, David Rossi, Chris Scott, Denise Searle, Margaret Serpa, and Ava Thors was formed to guide the process with priorities and vision concepts. Three focus groups were hosted: Council on Aging, Edgartown School, and Library Stakeholders. A survey was developed that was widely available for residents in the library, on the library website, and through email. The planning process was community driven with more than 700 participants. The strategic goals were guided by the revised mission: "Enhancing our quality of life by connecting people with resources, information, and each other."

The library has adopted seven service priorities: 1. Resources; 2. Cultural Preservation; 3. Community Engagement; 4. Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces; 5. Technology & Information Literacy; 6. Children and Teens; 7. Sustainability & Organizational Excellence.

As Edgartown looks forward to beginning a new chapter in its new public library, an added emphasis has also been placed on public programs that enrich the civic life of the town. In 2013, the library presented 261 programs for patrons of all ages, and more than 4,076 people took part, 25% more than 2012. Among the highlights:

Our Children's Department organized its most ambitious summer reading initiative ever around the statewide theme, "Dig Into Reading," with weekly book reports, crafts and lively educational programs featuring guests who ranged from members of the Edgartown Police (on the art and science of detective work), master storytellers Jennings and Ponder, the children's book character Amelia Bedelia and traditional Bolivian musician Jose Pareja. A high point of the eight-week summer program series was a wildly popular "Touch a Truck" event at the parking lot of the Edgartown School, which was filled for the afternoon with heavy equipment for children to explore. The series concluded on August 30 with an ice cream social celebration.

For the first time, the Library collaborated with the Edgartown Boys' and Girls' Club Summer to keep children reading through the summer. Children's Librarian, Debby MacInnis, visited the club every week with new books to borrow, and prizes for those who are participating in the program. By summer's end, the outreach program had engaged nearly three dozen children, who together read a total of 171 books.

The library partnered with Martha's Vineyard Book Festival to bring it to Edgartown for the first time. It was a success with more than 15 Friends of the Library and Trustee volunteers assisting throughout the day, beginning with a delightful author breakfast hosted by Trustees Julie Lively and Deanna Ahearn-Laird. The library put together a display in the weeks leading up to the festival with author works. Volunteers also spent the day at the Festival itself, introducing authors, organizing book signings, and directing traffic.

Again through the winter, spring and fall of 2013, Virginia Munro continued to curate and present public screenings of Tuesday night films. Themes of the library film series this year included "The Art of the Heist,"



Demolition work at site of Edgartown's new library.

presented in the spring, another *Downton Abbey* series (complete with British tea service) and a ten-week international film series in the fall. These programs have become so popular that the library's small program space (created by closing the children's room and moving furniture) has often been stretched to its limit, and movie fans have been turned away.

Elyce Bonnell continued to offer classes in ASL, American Sign Language, at the library this year, and Donna Blackburn led classes in knitting and drawing for adults in addition to her yeoman's work leading weekly children's crafts programs.

For the week of school vacation in February, and again in April, the children's librarians organized



'Touch a Truck' event in August was a highlight of summer programs.

programs that offered the children of town something to do on every day of the week. Activities ranged from movies to story hours and craft projects.

The library's two-month series of live music events on the front lawn, "Sounds Like Summer," continued to establish itself in 2013 as a favorite free community program. This year, with support from the Friends of the Edgartown Library, the Tuesday night series presented concerts by the Grateful Dread, Sabrina & the Groovers, the House Band, Johnny Hoy & the Bluefish, Jemima

James, the Mike Benjamin Band, the Kevin Keady Band, and the Jon Zeeman Trio.

In August, downstairs in the makeshift program space, the library presented "Artists & Authors," a lively series of five free programs featuring poet Rose Styron, cookbook author Melinda Fager, artist Curlee Holton and history author Tom Dresser. The etchings of Mr. Holton, whose program was greatly enriched by Shakespeare scholar Ian Smith, were on display at the library through the month.

In September, the library celebrated the anniversary of celebrated composer Giuseppe Verdi with a musical film screening, and with another series of talks on Verdi's great operas by Susan Grunthal of the Taconic Opera.



Book festival breakfast on the library lawn.

All through the year, book discussion groups met regularly at the library, led by Jill Dugas Hughes and Rise Terney.

As has become the library's new tradition, staff and friends prepared colorful banners and floats and marched in Edgartown's grand Independence Day Parade.

Again this year, the services and programs of the library were greatly strengthened by the support of our dedicated crew of volunteers, who contributed more nearly 700 hours of their time, and by the Friends of the Edgartown Public Library, which among its many accomplishments in 2012 organized and sponsored the first-ever Pennywise Path Run to the Library in September. The event was such a success, a second running is planned for the coming year.

For the Edgartown Library Building Committee, it was a busy year of laying the groundwork for the new facility that will have plenty of room for rich public programs, for quiet study and friendly conversations, for public computers and parking spaces nearby that will make access so much easier.

Final plans and specifications for the new library were completed over the summer, even as the old 1924 Union School building was taken down and the site prepared for the construction project. As the year closed, the building committee was awaiting bids from



The Edgartown Library staff, on Jan. 4, 2014: From left, Virginia Munro, Deborah MacInnis, Donna Blackburn, Debbie Strauss, Jill Dugas Hughes, Nis Kildegaard, Eric Alexander, and Elyce Bonnell.

general contractors to undertake the construction of the new library, which is scheduled to be complete and ready for public use sometime in early 2015. In the fall, tidying up loose ends from previous building plans at the North Water Street site, Edgartown sold the Warren House property, next-door to the old library, back into the private market.

One of the library's many exhibits in the history room next to the circulation desk, in 2012, featured a printed catalogue of the book collection which patrons would peruse in 1897 before asking the librarian to go back into the shelves and fetch materials for them. We've come so very far from a library where patrons couldn't explore the shelves even on a visit to the library, to a modern CLAMS network of 38 libraries and more than two million titles, a system whose online database lets its users download books and music from home without visiting the library building at all.

The challenges of delivering rich library services have changed in ways that would have been unimaginable to the founders of the Edgartown Library in 1891. The constant has been this institution's dedication to enhancing our quality of life by connecting people with resources, information, and each other. As the Edgartown Library begins its last full year in the building that has been its home since 1904, we rededicate ourselves to that mission. Our goal is to be the "place" the community thinks of first to find the answer — no matter what the question is.

Respectfully submitted,
Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees
Robert Avakian and Deanna Ahearn-Laird, co-chairs
Denise Searle, secretary
Herb Foster, trustee
Julie Lively, trustee
Carl Watt, trustee

EDGARTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
58 NORTH WATER STREET
PO BOX 5249
EDGARTOWN, MA 02539
(508) 627-4221

Board of Trustees Meeting

Second Monday of each month.

Library Staff

Jill Dugas Hughes, Library Director
Deborah MacInnis, Children's Librarian/
Assistant Director
Debbie Strauss, Circulation Supervisor
Alison Leslie, Technical Services Librarian
Elyce Bonnell, Department Assistant
Nis Kildegaard, Reference Librarian
Donna Blackburn, Library Assistant II
Eric Alexander, Library Assistant II
Virginia Munro, Library Assistant II
Rise Terney, Library Assistant II
Neuseth Cleary, Custodian

WWW.EDGARTOWNLIBRARY.ORG

Facts at a Glance

Fiscal year ending 6/30/2013

| | |
|--|--------|
| Visitors | 47,898 |
| Collection size | 54,635 |
| Books | 31,577 |
| Subscriptions | 114 |
| Audio CDs | 2,563 |
| Video DVD/VHS | 6,113 |
| Downloadable audio | 4,345 |
| Downloadable books | 8,114 |
| Circulation | 85,422 |
| Edgartown residents with library cards | 1,802 |
| Edgartown library cards total | 6,101 |
| Volunteers | 17 |
| Volunteer Hours | 697 |
| Materials borrowed from other libraries | 8,433 |
| Public Computers | 15 |
| Computer sessions per week | 191 |

Operational Information

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Hours open per week | 41 |
| Children's program attendance | 1,249 |
| Adult program attendance | 2,023 |