

PUBLIC LIBRARY



Artist Margot Datz and a few of her young friends celebrate the completion of her mural in the Children's Room.

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

2018 saw the Edgartown Public Library settling into new rhythms during its second full year in its new location next door to the Edgartown Elementary School.

As with so many institutions on the Island, the library's year divides into two distinct seasons. The first is the busy summer, when Edgartown's population more than doubles: Patrons make heavy use of library resources, program attendance jumps and children participate in the library's summer literacy initiatives.

Then there's the library's second busy season: the school year, when scores of children tumble into the library every weekday after classes. The vision of the new library's planners – building committee, library trustees and selectmen – was that in locating the library on the site of the derelict 1924 school building, Edgartown could create a civic center serving all generations of the community, with a unique opportunity to enrich the lives of children. In 2018 it was clear that this vision is being realized, with dramatic success, at the new Edgartown Library.

One milestone for the library came in late February, when the Children's Room was closed for a week so sound-absorbing treatment could be applied to some 2,000 square feet of the ceiling. The room reopened on Monday morning, March 5, as a much more pleasant acoustic environment for families and children.

Another milestone was the completion, in May, of the marine mural project begun the previous fall by Edgartown artist Margot Datz. The colorful mural,

eight months in the making, spans the entire east wall of the Children's Room and is filled with detailed depictions of creatures from all the oceans of the world. This wonderful work joins the paintings bequeathed to Edgartown by Charles Simpson in 1933 as yet another treasure in the library's collection of fine art.

The library's Program Room, with its auditorium-grade sound and projection systems, continued to enrich Edgartown's cultural life in 2018. In the Program Room and on the front lawn, the library presented more than a dozen free live concert events with performers from the Duo Marchand and the Vineyard Classic Brass to Celtic harpist Áine Minogue and the Vineyard's favorite blues band, Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish.

Every summer the south wall of the Program Room becomes a gallery space for month-long exhibits of work by Island visual artists. This year's gallery shows presented Island landscapes painted by Bill Buckley, an eclectic collection of folk-pop art by TimoNanda Elliott, and a wall-spanning installation of new geometric, textile-inspired paintings by Sarah Gail Hutcherson.

The Program Room's big screen was sparkling all year with children's films, holiday classics, operas, recent releases, and curated series of international and documentary movies. In April the library celebrated the birthday of William Shakespeare by screening one of his great plays every day for a week.

Events at the library in 2018 included book talks by Island authors, six weeks of chair yoga with instructor Carolyn Kildegard, a winter slow-cooking class led by Virginia Munro of the library staff, illustrated talks on insects of Martha's Vineyard by Matt Pelikan, on landlord-



The Program Room was busy all year. Here, State Rep. Dylan Fernandes meets with constituents.

tenant issues with the Vineyard Mediation Program, and on astronomy by Dr. Bruce Ward. Kathy Lavieri led workshops on using the iPad, Enid Haller spoke on Lyme disease, AARP volunteers helped seniors fill out tax returns and Alex Welles presented a travelogue tracing the adventures of Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. Elizabeth Benedict led a workshop on the college admissions process, Donald Nitchie led a Haiku workshop, Tom Ignacio of the library staff gave lessons on guitar, and Deirdre Decarion led introductory classes on playing the ukulele. (In a program funded by the Friends of the Edgartown Library, ukuleles and guitars were added to the collection for patrons to borrow in 2018.)



Elyce Bonnell leads a children's story hour.

Government and community groups across the Island expanded their use of the library's Program Room during 2018. The Town of Edgartown used the space for official committee meetings and for workshops on topics from workplace bullying to retirement planning. Neighborhood associations used the room for their annual meetings. Police officers from across the Island gathered for special classes, and librarians from every Island town gathered for training in emergency preparedness. The League of Women Voters used the room for Edgartown's 2018 candidates'

night event. In August, State Rep. Dylan Fernandes held a public meeting with constituents in the Program Room. As a high school senior, Keith Chatinover used the Program Room in March to organize two busloads of young people heading for the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C., and in December, after his election as Dukes County commissioner, he was back for his first Edgartown forum.

In 2018, the library took advantage of its growing connection to Edgartown's younger readers and began expanding its programs for young adult patrons. A young adult book group, begun in September, has connected with a steadily growing group of participants,



Harpist Aine Minogue performs a program of Celtic music.

and a monthly art club group was also formed in the fall, both led by Morgan Stanley-Kominers of the library staff. In October, Tom Ignacio started a weekly group that meets to play classic games (from cards and dice to board games) that connect kids directly with each other rather than through their digital devices.

But by far the fastest-growing front for all activities at the Edgartown Public Library in 2018 has been the Children's Department. During the library's first year with Elyce Bonnell as children's librarian, kids learned to make healthy snacks in monthly cooking classes, learned to knit with Cindy Bonnell, and sat for special story hours with members of the Coast Guard and the Edgartown police and fire departments. Animal visitors in the Children's Room included Tony, the therapy pony, Farm Institute sheep and friendly goats from Julie Scott's farm. Children planted shamrock seeds for St. Patrick's Day with teachers from the Farm Institute and played at Dungeons & Dragons with Ben Retmier. They folded paper cranes, decorated mugs for Father's Day, and clambered over all sorts of big vehicles at Touch a Truck Day in August, held next-door at the Edgartown School. Laurel Redington of MVY Radio launched Radio Games, an after-school program engaging middle-schoolers and teaching them communication



Checking out: Lily Walter, daughter Juna, and Tom Ignacio at the circulation desk.

skills. Halloween festivities drew a colorful crowd, and at the year's end kids sat for portraits with Santa and partied at the library's New Year's Eve celebration.

Finally, on the digital front, 2018 saw dramatic growth in the Edgartown Library's online offerings for its patrons. For the first time, the library connected patrons to Hoopla and Kanopy, two rich online resources for eBooks, audiobooks and movies. Meanwhile the digital titles available to all patrons in the CLAMS library network continue to expand. Patrons may now borrow digital materials from library consortia throughout the state under a new reciprocal lending program. (On most days, library staff are available to give quick tutorials on how to connect with these digital resources.)

As 2018 ended, the staff and trustees were completing work on a five-year strategic plan for the library. Development of this plan has involved public forums held with patrons in June, a survey of patrons conducted in July and August, and staff and trustee workshops held during the summer. When completed, the strategic plan will guide the Edgartown Public Library in its mission to remain responsive and relevant to the needs of its community, and to maintain its tradition of excellence in service, fostering life-long learning and enriching the lives of all the patrons it serves.

To the library's dedicated staff, to the voters whose continued support for the library makes its superior service possible, and to the Friends of the Edgartown Library for the funding that underwrites so many of the library's programs, our deepest thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
 Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees
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Trustees meet on third Thursday of each month.

LIBRARY STAFF

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 Susan Bernier, Library Assistant
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 Tom Ignacio, Library Assistant
 Morgan Stanley Kominers, Library Assistant
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www.edgartownlibrary.org

Facts at a Glance

fiscal year ending 6/30/2018

Collection size.....	117,091
Books	36,474
Subscriptions.....	105
Audio CDs	2,562
Video	8,463
Downloadable audio	10,937
Downloadable books.....	57,586
Circulation.....	83,703
Edgartown residents holding library cards	2,330
Edgartown library cards total	6,633
Volunteers	45
Volunteer hours	631
Total attendance at programs.....	14,186
Total annual foot traffic.....	91,855

