

# PUBLIC LIBRARY



Elyce Retmier, Children's Librarian, welcomes kids from the Edgartown School after the first day of the September term.

To the Honorable Select Board and the Citizens of Edgartown:

With the resumption of most in-person library services at the beginning of 2022, staff were hopeful that in-person programming wouldn't be far behind, after almost two full years of robust virtual offerings.

In January, two scheduled in-person events were postponed due to high Covid numbers on the Island. Children's Librarian Elyce Retmier continued her Winter Reading program as well as the wildly popular Book Box subscription service. Adult programs included online yoga with former Library Assistant Jelisa Difo, an art lecture with Janet Mandel, a dietician talk with Judy Palken, Program Coordinator Virginia Munro's online film discussion group, and Library Assistant Chris Look's popular online cooking show, Chef Look Cooks.

In February, the library became one of several Edgartown distribution sites for free at-home Covid test kits. The library tip-toed back into in-person programming with a concert featuring musicians Jeremy Berlin and Shelagh Hackett, much to the joy and exaltation of patrons. Meanwhile, the staff continued to present a wide range of virtual offerings featuring health and wellness programs, yoga, and presentations about art, film, and photography. Toward the end of the month, the Edgartown Planning Board's Master Plan Steering Committee held a series of public charrettes in the library's Program Room, the first steps toward the development of a revised Town Master Plan.

Town-wide mask mandate restrictions lifted in early March, and the programming lineup reflected this shift with

an array of virtual programs as well as a selection of in-person events, including the return of Program Coordinator Virginia Munro's popular film series on the Program Room's big screen, Opera Club, and a live concert with the Jeremy Berlin Trio. In the Children's Room, weekly drop-in Paint Group sessions and a LEGO Club were offered, along with Elyce's weekly Wiggle With the Words movement-based storytime, a favorite with the under-three crowd. The Friends of the Edgartown Library began a monthly Coffee Corner hour, inviting the public to stop by to inquire about being a member, or simply socialize and enjoy a cup of coffee.

The end of March also marked the end of an era: Virginia Munro, who brought stellar programming to the Edgartown Library for fifteen years, embarked on a well-deserved retirement. Virginia made an indelible mark on the library by introducing many exciting, educational, and entertaining programs over the years, including the Sounds Like Summer live music series, cooking programs, Opera Club, and innumerable expertly-curated movie series, all of which thousands of patrons have enjoyed over the years. Islander Emily Becker enthusiastically jumped into the role with an eye toward building programs around dance and the arts, conservation and sustainability, and developing partnerships across a wide spectrum of local organizations and non-profits that will continue the library's tradition of providing educational and entertaining programming for our community.

Late spring was marked with programs focused on self-sufficiency and sustainability, including a kombucha workshop, a talk on how to raise chickens in your backyard,

and a floral arrangement class with renowned florist Louise Sweet. May also marked the first Salt Water Wednesdays program, a workshop teaching all aspects of Island seafood as well as how to prepare it, which sent participants home (after shucking or fileting) with servings of local fish and shellfish. Word of this great offering traveled quickly, resulting in long waitlists every following month the program was offered. Children's Librarian Elyce Retmier got kids moving their bodies on the library's front lawn with the resumption of Fit Camp, led by personal trainer Bonnie Kingsbury.

Also in May, Reference and Technology Librarian Rizwan Malik began holding a monthly tech assistance clinic at The Anchors to provide digital literacy opportunities for seniors.

The Friends of the Library held their annual Mother's Day Open House, with a spring plant fundraiser, crafts for kids, and an open reading of the 10th annual Mother of the Year Essay Contest.

In collaboration with the Vineyard Conservation Society, the library installed a water bottle filling station in the library's front lobby area to promote the use of reusable bottles and reduce plastic waste.

In June, the library's Board Room was dedicated to the late Herb Foster, a former library trustee who, as an unwavering champion of the library, left a lasting impression on the board, the library staff, and all who love the library. The celebration was attended by Herb's daughter Donna Foster, by past and present library trustees, staff, friends, and by community members who gathered to honor and celebrate Herb. In-person programs continued to flourish in June with a weekly movement class, power yoga, a talk on native gardening practices with BioDiversity Works' Angela Luckey, a Foster Care informational session, and the Spirituals Choir led by Jim Thomas, who sang and presented stories about authentic U.S. slave songs.

July and August saw the return of the library's Sounds Like Summer music series, kicked off by local band The Jaywalkers. New acts were introduced to the lineup, and by summer's end, the weekly attendees blanketed the front lawn.

Through the summer months the library continued its regular movement classes, power yoga, film screenings, cooking classes, and author talks. Kathy Lavieri offered her technology expertise to adult learners, and Reference

Librarian Rizwan Malik taught a class on making kimchi. Former Chappaquiddick resident Rob Kagan stopped by to discuss his new memoir. Mark Lovewell presented a stargazing session on the constellations, and Ollie Becker and Emily Reddington of the Great Pond Foundation presented a film screening and discussion to a packed house. In July, the library held its first Disability Pride dance party and supper, a tradition that staff look forward to continuing.



In person programs at the library made a big comeback in 2022, including this author talk with Marc Favreau and Michael Eric Dyson.

Charlie Nadler and Cord Bailey closed the adult summer schedule with an evening of stand-up comedy.

In the Children's Room, Elyce Retmier invited Janet Messineo to teach kids the basics of fishing, and local kids' rock band The Pinkletinks returned to the library lawn for two consecutive monthly concerts of classic children's songs. Tony the Pony joined children for a special storytime, and Jeff Canha stopped by to talk with kids about what it's like to live on the water. Library Assistant Chris Look launched two new weekly programs for teens: an improvisation class, and Dungeons and Dragons.

The Children's Room broke its previous record with 304 young participants in the children's Summer Reading program, whose theme this year was "Oceans of Possibilities." The kids read thousands of books, and prizes for their achievements were generously donated by local businesses including Edgartown Meat & Fish, Dairy Queen, Edgartown Pizza, and Rosewater Market & Takeaway.

September and October brought a shift in both the weather and library programming, which turned its focus back to our local community. In fulfilling our mission to foster lifelong learning, the library held a discussion and Q&A on the war in Ukraine, and the global impacts the conflict has had on the world. Local author Marc Favreau was joined virtually by Vanderbilt University professor





Clockwise, from top left: Salt Water Wednesdays drew a crowd for a lesson on shellfish. The Disability Pride celebration in July was the festive start of a new library tradition. Young friends gathered to share the joy of reading, and Emily Becker succeeded the retiring Virginia Munro as the library's coordinator of adult programs.

Michael Eric Dyson, presenting their book on racial inequality to a standing-room crowd in the Program Room. Rebecca Gilbert gave a presentation on foraging, Tim Sheran led a fly-tying workshop, biologists from BiodiversityWorks gave a presentation on bats, and Dick Johnson discussed tick-borne illnesses. With the start of a new school year, the Children's Room offered after school movies on Fridays, and launched Make It Mondays, a weekly drop-in crafting opportunity for parents of young children.

September also saw the library's first-ever fashion show: patrons got to view looks from three of the Island's top clothing designers modeled by locals, complete with

a runway, lighting, and music. In October, Programs Coordinator Emily Becker introduced Open Mic Night, a monthly event that provided a stage for practicing, encouraging, and connecting with fellow artists.

In November and December, opportunities for enrichment and learning continued with a wide variety of programs, including the continuation of cooking classes with Chef Look, Open Mic Night, and weekly power yoga. Drop-in knitting with master knitter Cindy Bonnell resumed in the upstairs conference room to a joyful group of knitters, and entomologist Larry Dapsis gave a presentation on pollination ecology. Emily Becker's wreath-



The Sounds Like Summer music series was another popular program supported by Friends of the Library.

making workshop was so popular she offered a second class. Library patrons were also treated to a fall concert series in the Program Room, including the Lucas Ostinato Trio, Black Eyed Susans, and Maryse Smith.

In December, the Friends of the Library hosted their annual Open House and fundraiser during the weekend of Christmas in Edgartown. Patrons of all ages visited the library to enjoy refreshments while purchasing fresh poinsettia plants and bidding on raffle and silent auction items. In the afternoon, community caroling led by Friend of the Library and pianist Adele Dreyer and singer Sean McMahon brought the day to a festive close.

Santa visited the library in time to collect wish lists from Island children while National Honor Society students from the high school handed out free books, healthy snacks, and crafts to the families stopping by.

The support of the Friends of the Edgartown Library cannot be overstated: the Herb & Anita Foster Staff Education Fund, established to support professional development for library staff, continues to grow. Their partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides free, age-appropriate books to registered Edgartown children from birth until age five, and has grown to almost 50 participants. Their annual fund drive continues to support the programs that our talented staff provides for our patrons. We are grateful for the tremendous support that this volunteer organization continues to provide for the library and our community.

Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees

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Trustees meet on the third Thursday of each month.

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#### LIBRARY STAFF

LISA HORTON SHERMAN, Director  
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[www.edgartownlibrary.org](http://www.edgartownlibrary.org)

### Facts at a Glance

*fiscal year ending 6/30/2022*

Collection size.....	99,761
Books .....	34,719
Subscriptions.....	55
Audio CDs .....	2,166
Video .....	7,910
Downloadable audio .....	14,049
Downloadable books.....	39,620
Circulation.....	147,848
Edgartown residents holding library cards .....	2,127
Edgartown library cards total .....	5,133
Volunteers .....	16
Volunteer hours .....	184
Total number of library programs, live and virtual .....	538
Total attendance at programs.....	11,009
Total annual foot traffic .....	50,049

