

# PUBLIC LIBRARY



In summer 2024, the library partnered with the Edgartown Shellfish Department to take patrons out on Edgartown waters for an introduction to quahog harvesting.

To the Honorable Select Board and the Citizens of Edgartown:

The library is dedicated to being a vital civic anchor in the heart of our community, serving as a trusted partner to local agencies, organizations, and services. With a strong commitment to fostering lifelong learning, we strive to be a dynamic contributor to the town's cultural and educational endeavors. Our staff are recognized for their friendly, attentive, and helpful approach, delivering exceptional customer service rooted in the philosophy that there is no unimportant transaction.

In April, seven full-time staff members attended the Public Library Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio, supported in part by a grant from the Herb and Anita Foster Staff Education Fund. Professional development is essential for keeping pace with evolving trends and technologies in libraries, ensuring that staff continue to meet the needs of our community and stay innovative in our work. Whether it's learning about new programs for helping families during early childhood, enhancing digital literacy, or discovering new ways to engage with diverse populations, ongoing education strengthens our ability to serve you.

Visitors to the children's room continue to experience an extremely busy hub that rarely loses its energy. During the summer months, story hour attendee numbers often exceed 60+ young listeners, and the Summer Reading Program this year drew 570 signups, up from 408 signups in 2023—demonstrating that the program's growing impact and continued success is not slowing down. Local businesses including Edgartown Meat & Fish, Edgartown Pizza, Great Harbor Market, and the Ice Cream and Candy Bazaar supplied

prizes for readers. The library deeply appreciates their generous and ongoing support of our Summer Reading Program.

Children's Librarian Elyce Retmier also offered a year-round weekly lineup of programs that extended to six days a week, including Move it Mondays, Tuesday Play Doh Group, Wednesday Crafts, Pint-Sized Picassos, Big Little Muscles, Cooking with Maria Moreira, Active Moves with Jenna Robichau, and Fit Camp with Bonnie Kingsbury. During the busy school year, between thirty to fifty kids ranging from third through eighth grade use the space daily to do homework, unwind, and visit with friends.

In June, Adult Programs Coordinator Claudia Taylor was appointed as the Martha's Vineyard Poet Laureate, a role that reflects her exceptional talent and deep connection to the art of poetry. She plans to incorporate poetry into a variety of programs during her two-year tenure, offering patrons a chance to engage with poetry in new and inspiring ways.

Claudia also launched an adult programs survey this year, in order to gain valuable information about how our adult programs can best serve our patrons and community. The survey, in addition to recognizing our friendly and helpful staff, offered feedback on existing programs that Claudia will utilize as she continues to build on well-loved signature programming while making space for new and creative initiatives and collaborations with community organizations.

The library offered a rich variety of adult programs this year, covering a range of topics and interests. In collaboration with the Anchors, the library offered AARP's Tax Aide program, as well as iPad workshops with Kathy Lavieri and monthly tech sessions held at the Anchors with Reference

Librarian Rizwan Malik. The library also offered a monthly international film series, art exhibits in the Program Room featuring local artists, writing and poetry workshops, and painting classes. Yoga continued to be a popular draw and the library offered three separate classes that covered a broad range of abilities, including an adaptive series in collaboration with Island Autism Group. The library also partnered with the Edgartown Shellfish Department to offer quahog harvesting instruction at the Edgartown Great Pond. Former chef and Library Assistant Chris Look continued to provide popular cooking classes and how-to seafood shucking lessons, also in partnership with the Edgartown Shellfish Department. The Sounds Like Summer music on the lawn series enjoyed a very successful sixteenth year, and the library collaborated with the Board of Trade to produce an exciting weekend of concerts during the town's first Porchfest Edgartown. In August, a series of author talks including Dawn Tripp, Wendy Benchley, Ala Stanford, M.D., and Martha Hall Kelly were popular. Ongoing weekly programs such as drop-in Mah Jongg and knitting with Cindy Bonnell brought those together with shared interests and talents in a casual and welcoming environment.

Outreach efforts this year included participating in the MV Farm Passport program during the summer months, in partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, hosting a Jaws Photo Scan-A-Thon for Amity Week in collaboration with the Edgartown

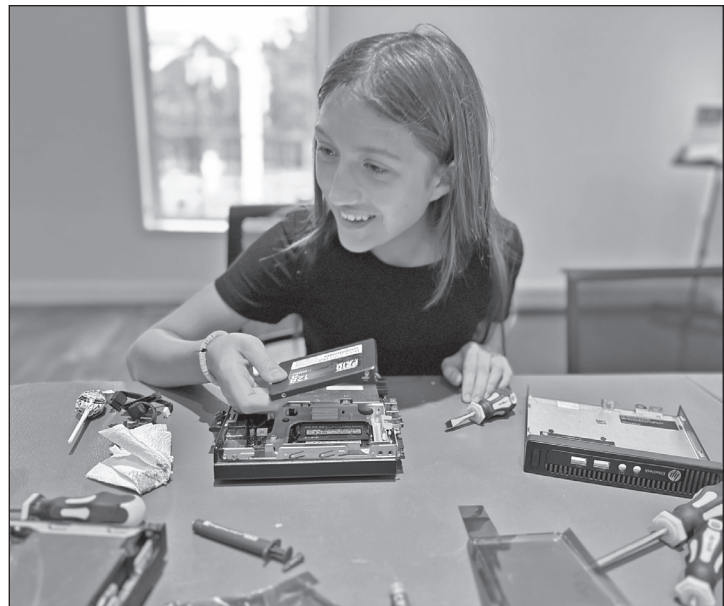


Mah Jongg players gathered weekly for games at the library.

Board of Trade, holding a Foster Parent Informational Table in partnership with the MA Department of Children and Families during our holiday Open House, and hosting Septics for Skeptics, one of several programs offered around



The library's yoga programs were popular in 2024.



Clockwise, from top left: The Children's Room continues to be a bustling hub of activity after school. Chris Look provides weekly Tech Time help for patrons. A young patron enjoys a lesson in computer building. And several free concerts deepened the library's collaboration with the MV Chamber Music Society.

the Island by the Down Island Coastal Ponds Speaker Series. The library's partnership with the MV Chamber Music Society blossomed this year with several well-attended classical music concerts.

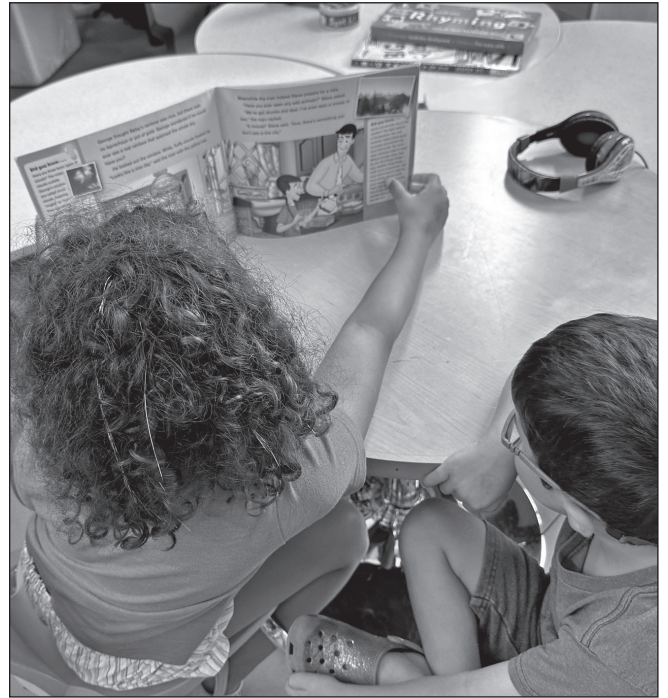
The Friends of the Library's generous financial support had a remarkable impact on the success of our programs throughout the year. Their support has been instrumental in allowing the library to continue its mission of providing rich

and engaging programming, and we are deeply grateful for this volunteer organization's continued dedication.

Through all of these efforts, the library remains a warm, inclusive, and evolving space that is dedicated to the growth and enrichment of our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and look forward to another year of contributing to and supporting the town's cultural and educational well-being.



With support from the Herb and Anita Foster Staff Education Fund, the library's full-time staff attended the biennial Public Library Association convention in Columbus, Ohio.



Reading together in the Children's Room.

**EDGARTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
 26 WEST TISBURY ROAD  
 EDGARTOWN, MA 02539  
 (508) 627-4221

**LIBRARY STAFF**

LISA HORTON SHERMAN, Director  
 JELISA DIFO, Department Assistant  
 ELYCE RETMIER, Coordinator of Youth Services  
 RIZWAN MALIK, Reference and Technology Librarian  
 ANGELA LUCKEY, Circulation Supervisor  
 CAROLINE DROGIN, Library Collection Specialist  
 CLAUDIA TAYLOR, Adult Programs Coordinator  
 CHRISTOPHER LOOK IV, Library Assistant  
 ROSA PARKER, Library Assistant  
 KRISTIN FINLEY BROWN, Library Assistant  
 SHAUNA MOON, Library Assistant

[www.edgartownlibrary.org](http://www.edgartownlibrary.org)

**Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees**

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 DENISE SEARLE, Co-Chair (2026)  
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Trustees meet on the second Thursday of each month.

**Facts at a Glance**

*fiscal year ending 6/30/2024*

Library Visitors .....	82,242
Library Card Holders .....	5,645
Total Collection Size .....	95,528
Library Checkouts .....	109,833
Libby Checkouts .....	26,869
Adult Programs Offered .....	387
Adult Programs Attendance .....	5,578
Children's/Youth	
Programs Offered .....	355
Children's Youth Programs	
Attendance .....	8,102
Social Media Followers .....	3,852
Summer Reading	
Registrations .....	570

