

PUBLIC LIBRARY



Families enjoyed their last season of summer music on the Carnegie Library lawn in 2015. This year the programs move to a new campus.

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

The Edgartown Free Public Library ended 2015 amid preparations for its biggest move since the transition, some 110 years ago, from space above a shop on Main Street into the Carnegie library building that has served the town for all the years since then.



Youngsters enjoyed the library's Touch a Truck program in August.

Work on Edgartown's new public library facility, adjoining the campus of the elementary school on the West Tisbury Road, neared completion in 2015. At year's end, progress on the site included seeding and planting, site lighting, cedar fencing and metal panel and caulking installation. Inside, mechanical units were on and

systems were operating well. Plumbing was finished, and the last lighting fixtures were being installed. Throughout the project, finish painting, flooring and millwork installation were all near completion. Furniture deliveries began in December, and the last shipments of shelving were expected to arrive in early January. At the close of 2015, the library's plan was to close at the North Water Street location and reopen at the new site sometime in February 2016.

Not only in terms of physical facilities, but also in terms of personnel, 2015 was a year of transitions for the library. Jill Dugas Hughes, library director since the spring of 2012, resigned and left for New York State at the end of August. Her successor, hired after an extensive public search process involving library trustees, staff and community members, is Lisa Horton Sherman, director of the Aquinnah Library for the past three years. Ms. Sherman, an Edgartown resident herself, previously served for five years at the Edgartown Library as circulation supervisor.

Another transition in 2015, the departure of Debbie Strauss as circulation supervisor, prompted a small cascade of staffing shifts. Elyce Bonnell was promoted to circulation supervisor, and Eric Alexander's job was expanded to full-time as he assumed the responsibilities of department assistant. At the same time, Rachael Convery was brought on-staff in Eric's previous post of library assistant II.



August brought transition: Lisa Horton Sherman (left) succeeded Jill Dugas Hughes as library director.

Finally, as the year ended, the library staff and community bid farewell and best wishes to Donna Blackburn, who retired after more than 21 years of service, most of it in the library's children's room. Over more than two decades at the library, Donna brought her artistic skills to bear in countless ways, from beautifying the walls to painting the outdoor book drop in the image of a shark – not to mention teaching classes in everything from drawing to watercolors to knitting, and even the art of cake decoration.

Amid all this change, the constant at the Edgartown Public Library has been a continued focus on the core mission of service to our patrons. The bitter storms of last winter, and the loss of the library's small-but-precious parking lot in the spring (as construction began on the private property next door) caused hardships for our patrons, and one result was that both visits to the library and overall circulation figures dipped slightly in 2015. But the staff pressed ahead with an ambitious calendar of programs through the year. Among the highlights:

- Virginia Munro presented several themed film series in 2015, all of them thoughtfully curated and well attended. Themes included war, documentaries, road movies, and films about the press. With Ms. Munro as instructor, the library also presented a tasty cooking series focused on recipes using the slow cooker.

- The Opera Club, first organized in 2014, presented programs through the year featuring great performances, all of them screened at the library on Sunday afternoons. And in August and September, Susan Grunthal of the Taconic Opera presented a free listening class entitled

Art of the Voice, covering the operatic voices from coloratura sopranos to baritones and basses.

- The Children's Department organized eight weeks of lively programs around the state's summer reading theme, Every Hero Has a Story. Events included a program presented by a manufacturer of robots, several author visits, a Harry Potter birthday celebration in July and the popular Touch a Truck program at the school parking lot in August. The Island libraries' summer of 2015 kicked off memorably with a program in West Tisbury that had to be canceled because of what turned out to be a false measles scare; Edgartown's summer events for children concluded more happily with an August 28 ice cream social on the front lawn.

- For adults in the summer of 2015, the library presented a series of four free programs on Wednesday nights, including artist and author talks and the premiere screening of a documentary on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Harbor View Hotel, with an introduction by maestro Benjamin Zander.

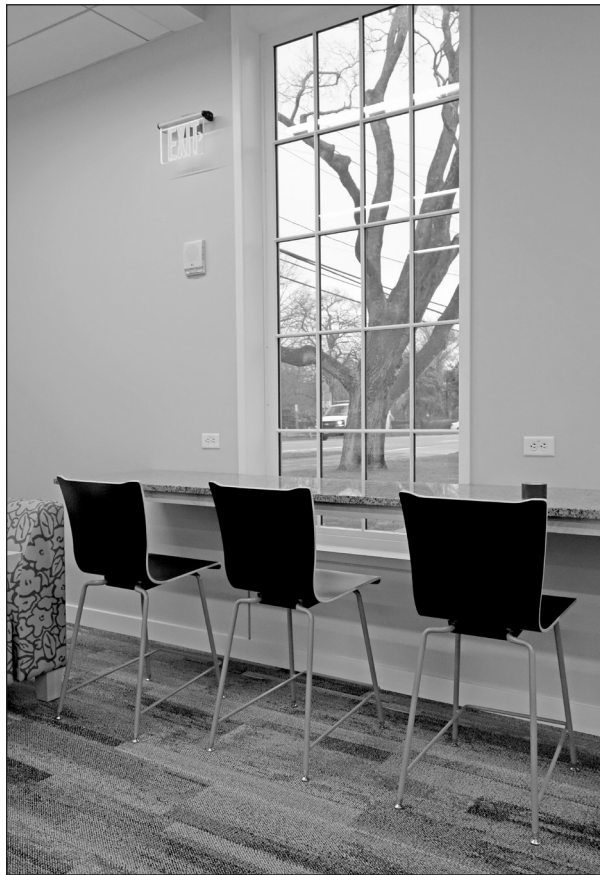
- Rachael Convery led several classes in jewelry



Storybook character Llama Llama visits with young friends.

making in 2015, and Elyce Bonnell led a series of lively classes in American Sign Language.

Organizing a year of such engaging programs without any dedicated parking space outside the library, and without proper programming space inside, was a challenge that the library staff met with their usual creativity and good cheer. Against the backdrop of this recent experience, the prospect of a state-of-the-art program room in our new library and a new 40-space parking lot nearby (not to mention an accessible new location along two bike paths and two bus lines) is



Inside the new library, chairs with a view await Edgartown's patrons.

something the entire staff looks forward to.

No summary of the library's year would be complete without mentioning the Friends of the Edgartown Library, an organization in renaissance led by president Mary Jane Carpenter, which continued to awe with its positive efforts in 2015. In addition to underwriting such popular library programs as the Sounds Like Summer concert series on the library lawn, the Friends held their third annual 5K Pennywise Path Run/Walk event over Labor Day weekend, and in August organized a pop-up exhibit on the library's first 125 years, presented at the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

Over the past few years it has been heartening to watch our neighboring towns as they invest in their community libraries and enjoy the many benefits of new facilities and improved services. We are so excited to be able to say that 2016 promises to be Edgartown's year to continue this story, and we look forward to serving you in your new library.

Respectfully submitted,
 Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees
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EDGARTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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 EDGARTOWN, MA 02539
 (508) 627-4221

Board of Trustees meets on the second Monday
 of each month.

LIBRARY STAFF

Lisa Horton Sherman, Director
 Deborah MacInnis, Children's Librarian/
 Assistant Director
 Elyce Bonnell, Circulation Supervisor
 Alison Leslie, Technical Services Librarian
 Eric J. Alexander, Department Assistant
 Nis Kildegaard, Reference Librarian
 Donna Blackburn, Library Assistant II
 Rachael Convery, Library Assistant II
 Virginia Munro, Library Assistant II
 Neuseth Cleary, Custodian

www.edgartownlibrary.org

Facts at a Glance

fiscal year ending 6/30/2015

Collection size.....	73,172
Books	32,280
Subscriptions.....	124
Audio CDs	2,826
Video	7,137
Downloadable audio	4,797
Downloadable books.....	24,174
Circulation.....	82,180
Edgartown residents holding	
library cards	2,140
Edgartown library	
cards total	6,560
Volunteers	33
Volunteer hours	1,356
Materials borrowed	
from other libraries	7,965

