

PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

THE LIBRARY WAS a busy place in 2011. While there was much discourse over the proposed expansion plans, there was also plenty of activity in the building itself. This report can only touch upon a few of the newsworthy items that the library participated in over the year.

In January, the board of library trustees and the board of selectmen submitted a 329-page application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, seeking a grant of more than \$5 million for construction of a new public library on the site now occupied by the town's old 1924 elementary school building. At the annual town meeting in April, voters unanimously approved the new library plan and endorsed the application for state funding. On July 14, the state approved Edgartown's plan and put the town on a list to receive grant funds, most likely by July 1, 2013.

The Library Building Committee worked throughout the year to address funding for the new project, the disposition of the Warren House property and the future use of the Carnegie building. The April 2012 annual town meeting warrant will include articles for bonding the library project and for the sale of the Warren House.

Three new trustees were voted to the Library Board in April: Robert C. Avakian, Deanna Ahearn-Laird and Julie Lively. Outgoing trustees, Patricia Rose, Ellen Kaplan, and Ann Tyra contributed over 12 years of combined service to the library. Later in 2011, trustees Glenn Carpenter and Ned Southworth stepped down from the library board. Carl Watt and Denise Searle were appointed to fill their positions until the April 2012 election.

In December, Felicia Cheney, library director for six and a half years, submitted her resignation effective

January 27, 2012. The trustees appointed circulation librarian, Lisa Sherman, as interim director, and a search for the library's next director is now underway.

The library department has undergone many changes over the past year. Some of them more difficult than others, but through it all the library continues to strive to foster its core values: ensuring excellence in customer service; providing, supporting, and advocating access for all; acting with initiative, creativity, and flexibility; fostering community and sustaining the vitality of downtown Edgartown; keeping local history alive; working together, with enthusiasm and optimism, to reach goals; and responsible stewardship of resources.

As of 2011, the Edgartown Free Public Library has served the citizens of Edgartown for 120 years. We may be old, but we are as vital as ever. Below are some of the significant library events of the year.

SPECIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Programs at the Edgartown Library this year included the following:

- Author, farmer and photographer Jon Katz spoke in the Children's Room to a packed crowd.
- Tia Costello from the Boston Census Bureau presented a program on how to mine their website for information about the Island.
- Njal Hostmaelingen of the International Law & Policy Institute in Norway gave a lecture on global human rights.
- Art historian Dr. David Stork gave an illustrated talk on the works of the Renaissance masters.
- Professor Herbert Foster of the library trustees gave a program on connections between Yiddish and jive in everyday American slang.
- Renowned photographer Alison Shaw talked about her new book, *Photographing Martha's Vineyard*.
- Archaeologist Katie Kirakosian presented a program on Native American shellfish use on Martha's Vineyard for the state's celebration of Archaeology Month.
- Judy Klumick of Morning Glory Farm gave a cooking demonstration.
- Edgartown participated in Library Snapshot Day, documenting a day in the life of the library for a



national online display project.

- As part of a set of programs jointly presented by the Island libraries, reference librarian Nis Kildegaard moderated a panel discussion on sustainable agriculture at the Oak Bluffs Library.



- The Milkweed Puppets presented an afternoon of live puppet theatre.
- Jose Parejo entertained patrons with Bolivian music played on his charango.
- The library presented the Great Edgartown Type-In, with an illustrated talk on the history of the manual typewriter and a display of two dozen



working antique typewriters for patrons to try.

- Experts from Kaminsky Auctions spent a lively afternoon performing free appraisals of patrons' antique treasures.

- Special visitors to the Children's Room included Corduroy the Bear, Curious

George and Madeline.

- Celebrating the launch of the last Harry Potter movie, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, part 2*, the entire children's room space was decorated Hogwarts style for a party, where over 80 kids in costume snacked on Harry Potter snacks and participated in a Potter style scavenger hunt.

ONGOING LIBRARY EVENTS

- We celebrated our third season of "Sounds Like Summer," a series of live concerts on the front lawn featuring popular Vineyard bands, which was funded by a generous gift from the Edgartown Library Foundation.
- On Independence Day, members of the library staff, the Edgartown Library Foundation and the Friends group marched in the Edgartown parade, throwing out candy and dispensing "get out of fines free" cards.

- Tuesday night movies at the library continued to attract a strong following in 2011. Librarian Virginia Munro organized several film series around themes, from music to child actors, from life in Paris to haute cuisine and Marilyn Monroe. In 2011, she also supplemented her Tuesday movie night program

with four weeks of *I Like Spike* Sunday afternoon double features celebrating Black History Month.

- Librarian Kathleen Malmquist continued her adult craft program series with instruction on making creations from felted wool.

- Librarian Elyce Bonnell led a six-week class in American Sign Language, as well as weekly Wii dance sessions for both children and adults.

- Librarian Lisa Sherman continued with her thought provoking book groups.

- In the Children's Room, story hour programs were offered twice a week, all year.

- This year's children's summer reading theme was "One World, Many Stories," and the weeks of July and August were filled with programs on countries and cultures around the world, from Scandinavia to Antarctica. 100 participating children read a total of more than a thousand books.

- The library network added over 15,000 downloadable eBooks and audio books. With the proliferation of accessible eReaders, the library has seen circulation of electronic materials increase tenfold over the past three years. In keeping with promoting technology literacy, staff members offered on-demand tutorials for Kindles, Nooks, iPods, iPads and other devices.





Since 1891 the Edgartown Library has strived to provide quality services to the citizens and visitors of Edgartown. This April, Edgartown is poised to take a huge step toward construction of the library this town deserves – a facility whose excellence is in keeping with the quality of services provided inside it. Voter approval at town meeting and at the polls will ensure that the citizens of Edgartown will continue to enjoy excellent library service well into the 21st century.

In closing, we wish to thank all the trustees who have served before us, the library staff, the Edgartown Library Foundation and the Friends of the Edgartown Library, as well as our dedicated volunteers for their continual donations of both time and resources, without which many of the programs above would not be possible. We rely on funding from the Friends group for our children's programs and from the Foundation for our adult programming. In addition, we would like to make special mention of the over \$10,000 worth of shelving that the Foundation purchased for the library this year.

We look forward to your continued support over the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edgartown Free Public Library
Board of Trustees
Herb Foster & Julie Lively, Co-Chairs
Deanna Ahearn-Laird, Secretary
Robert Avakian, Trustee
Denise Searle, Trustee (appointed)
Carl Watt, Trustee (appointed)



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

LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Wednesday	10:00 to 8:00
Thursday/Friday/Saturday	10:00 to 5:00

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Toddler Time	Saturday 11:00
Story Hour	Thursday 10:30

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Second Monday of each month.

LIBRARY STAFF

Felicia Cheney, Library Director
Deborah MacInnis, Children's Librarian/
Assistant Director
Nis Kildegaard, Reference Librarian
Lisa Sherman, Circulation Librarian
Alison Leslie, Technical Services Librarian
Donna Blackburn, Library Assistant II
Elyce Bonnell, Library Assistant II
Kathleen Malmquist, Library Assistant II
Virginia Munro, Library Assistant II
Neuseth Cleary, Custodian

WWW.EDGARTOWNLIBRARY.ORG

FACTS AT A GLANCE, FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/11

Visitors	51,703
Collection size	58,679
Books	30,228
Subscriptions.....	116
Audio CDs	2,141
Video DVD/VHS	5,378
Other	499
Downloadable Materials ..	20,317
Circulation	90,405
(July & August).....	18,142
Edgartown Residents with Library cards	1,996
Edgartown library cards total.....	6,185
Volunteers.....	19
Volunteer Hours.....	891
Materials borrowed from other libraries.....	8,918
Public Computers.....	16

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Hours open per week	41
New items catalogued	4,993