

# PUBLIC LIBRARY



*On the empty site where the elementary school once stood, Edgartown broke ground for its new public library in March.*

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

THE EDGARTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY continued to pursue its mission of service in 2014, even as preparations advance for the move to the new facility, now taking shape near the Edgartown School, which will serve the community in the decades to come.

The community's excitement at the sight of the new library construction project — together with the library's expanding commitment to a robust calendar of public programs — made for a year which saw activity at the library increase in almost every category.

Among the highlights of a busy 2014:

In response to sentiments expressed in a 2013 survey of users, the library expanded its hours to include Mondays beginning in the spring.

Cardholders at the Edgartown Library increased by 28 percent, and total circulation increased by 36 percent in the fiscal year ending June 30. Circulation of ebooks to our patrons increased by almost a third, and circulation of DVDs across all categories increased by 41 percent.

In the year ending June 30, the Edgartown Library offered a record 289 public programs, 31 percent more than in the year before. Attendance at our programs during this period totaled more than 4,100 people, also a new record for the library.

The library owes a debt of sincere thanks to its sponsor of public programs, the Friends of the Edgartown Library. This organization continues to strengthen and grow, raising funds critical to the library's efforts to expand its outreach and service. Two fund-raising highlights of the year were the second running of the 5K Run to the Library, an event sponsored by the Friends

which attracted a field of more than 70 competitors, and the August garden party event for the library's Above & Beyond Fund, which supports special projects (both capital expenses and programs) which enrich the library's service to Edgartown.

The Children's Department was a busy place in 2014. A lively summer reading initiative around the statewide theme, "Fizz, Boom, Read," involved weekly book reports, crafts, and lively educational programs



*Another fund-raising project undertaken at the library this year is this remarkable trompe l'oeil mural by Island artist Margot Datz, painted on panels fitted into the entry hallway (only a detail is shown here). Library supporters have donated \$100 each to have book spines painted with the favorite titles of their choice.*

exploring the sciences. There were hands-on experiences with robots, horseshoe crabs, fossils, and polymer slime. Gus Ben David gave one of his always-popular animal programs, and the series concluded with an ice cream social celebration. By summer's end, 110 children had participated in the reading initiative, reporting on 857 books. Most importantly, they had fun.

All through the year, the Children's Department continued to offer its regular activities — story hours



*At year's end, the new library was being sealed to the weather so construction could continue through the winter and spring. At left in this image is the new children's room; the two-story structure at right is the main adult and young-adult portion of the library. Behind these, out of view here, is the library's new community program room.*

and weekly drop-in crafts. Special children's events included the traditional celebrations of Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year and Mardi Gras/Carnival. Through the summer, the Children's Department presented weekly "Friday on the Lawn" events, and this year special appearances were made by two beloved characters from children's books, Lady Bug Girl and Biscuit the Dog.

For the weeks of school vacation in December, February, and April, the children's librarians continued their recent tradition of organizing programs for children on every day of the week. Activities ranged from movies to story hours and craft projects.

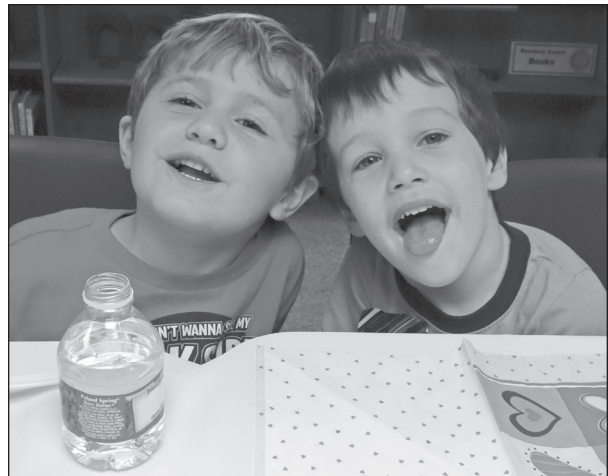
Through the winter, spring and fall of 2014, Virginia Munro presented public screenings of Tuesday night films. Themes this year included "Music Makers," a series of films featuring great music, "Movies About Movies" in the spring, another Downton Abbey series (complete with British tea service) and a ten-week international film series in the fall.

Elyce Bonnell worked with a new teen youth group at the library this year, and children's librarian Donna Blackburn led classes in knitting and drawing for adults as well as a popular new series of classes in the art of cake decorating.

The library's two-month series of live music events on the front lawn, "Sounds Like Summer," celebrated its sixth year in 2014 as a favorite free community program. This year, again with support from the Friends of the Edgartown Library, the series presented concerts by the Mike Benjamin Band, the Cattedrivers, the Grateful Dread, Kent Riley's House Band, Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish, Sabrina and the Groovers, and the Jon Zeeman band and trio.

In August, in its last year of making do with an impromptu program space in the Children's Room, the library presented a lively series of free programs

on the theme of Island history. Suzan Bellincampi spoke about her new book on the natural history of the Vineyard, and authors Herbert Foster, Jay Schofield and Tom Dresser presented their book on the Vineyard's experience of World War II. In the final two programs of the series, presented at the Harbor View Hotel in



*Making new friends at the library in the Amigos program.*

a new collaboration with that historic anchor on the opposite end of North Water Street, Nis Kildegaard spoke about his new book on the history of the hotel, and Tom Dunlop and John Wilson presented their latest discoveries from a project to discover and save historic film footage of the Island.

In the fall of 2014, the Edgartown Library launched a new program initiative, the Opera Club, presenting great works of opera on its big screen. This followed the final set of classes in the operas of the great composer Giuseppe Verdi, presented by Susan Grunthal of the Taconic Opera.

All through the year, book discussion groups met





*The art of cake decorating, a class led by librarian Donna Blackburn.*

regularly at the library, led by Jill Dugas Hughes.

And beginning in November, the Edgartown Library presented Amigos, a bilingual language and cultural story-time program for preschoolers and their families, designed to build cultural bridges and teach early literacy through books in English and Brazilian Portuguese. Each Amigos program involves parent education during the supper hour, while trained high school students work with the youngsters nearby. In presenting this program, the library has partnered with the Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard. Funding was provided through a grant from Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank.

For the Edgartown Library Building Committee, it has been a busy year of oversight as actual construction work advances on the new library building. As the year closed, the new library was weather-tight, so construction crews will be able to press ahead on the project through the coldest months with an eye toward opening the new facility sometime this summer.

Every public library on Martha's Vineyard is now a member of CLAMS, the Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing network of 38 libraries, with its online databases of ebooks and music and nearly 2 million items for all patrons to share.

The Edgartown Library has now concluded its last full year in the historic building that has been its home since 1904. The vessel in which our services are delivered is about to change, but our mission inside that new building will be the same: enhancing our quality of life by connecting people with resources, information, and each other.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees  
Julie Lively, chair  
Denise Searle, vice-chair  
Herb Foster, secretary/treasurer  
Deanna Ahearn-Laird, trustee  
Bob Avakian, trustee  
Carl Watt, trustee

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

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Second Monday of each month.

### **Library Staff**

Jill Dugas Hughes, Director  
Deborah MacInnis, Children's Librarian/  
Assistant Director  
Debbie Strauss, Circulation Supervisor  
Alison Leslie, Technical Services Librarian  
Elyce Bonnell, Department Assistant  
Nis Kildegaard, Reference Librarian  
Donna Blackburn, Library Assistant II  
Eric Alexander, Library Assistant II  
Virginia Munro, Library Assistant II  
Neuseth Cleary, Custodian

**WWW.EDGARTOWNLIBRARY.ORG**

## **Facts at a Glance**

*fiscal year ending 6/30/2014*

Visitors .....	46,574
Collection size.....	61,774
Books .....	32,386
Subscriptions.....	140
Audio CDs .....	2,686
Video DVD/VHS .....	6,646
Downloadable audio .....	4,834
Downloadable books.....	12,498
Circulation.....	84,719
Edgartown residents with library cards .....	2,314
Edgartown library cards total .....	7,474
Volunteers .....	33
Volunteer hours .....	537
Materials borrowed from other libraries .....	8,610
Public Computers.....	17
Computer sessions per week .....	147

## **Operational Information**

Hours open per week .....	48
Children's program attendance .....	2,684
Adult program attendance .....	1,446