

# PUBLIC LIBRARY



*Hugs all around for Debby MacInnis, children's librarian, at her retirement party in December.*

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

2017 was the Edgartown Public Library's first full calendar year in its new building next to the elementary school. Here, month by month, is a far-from-complete walk through the year.

**January & February:** The Opera Club presented a series of Sunday programs, and a documentary film series opened Jan. 11. The Adventures in Slow Cooking series featured a French Cassoulet and Daube de Boeuf Provençal. Children celebrated the Chinese New Year with a party, enjoyed crafts on every day of school break, met Curious George at a special story hour and competed in a Mario Kart tournament. A four-week class explored yoga-based stress management, and naturalists from Felix Neck presented a program on the Island's horseshoe crab survey project.

**March:** The library celebrated its first anniversary in its new building with an open house hosted by the Friends. An international film series began on March 8. The Scottish Society gave a concert, the Opera Club presented two more programs, and the slow-cooker class dish was a savory Indian Butter Chicken. AARP volunteers dispensed tax advice and kids kept busy making kites, decorating flying discs and making decorations for St. Patrick's Day – as well as enjoying Story Hours (featuring Chief Rossi in full Dr. Seuss costume) and films from the Star Wars series. The League of Women Voters held its candidates' forum at the library, and the month ended with a family dance party featuring Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish.

**April:** Town elections brought two new members to the Library board of trustees: David Faber, science instructor at the Edgartown School, and Chris Scott, longtime director of the MV Preservation Trust and member of the library building committee. Deanna Ahearn-Laird and Bob Avakian stepped down, with thanks for their service during a challenging chapter that included the building of our new facility.

The MV Poetry Collective presented an evening of readings, and the library held an Easter egg hunt for kids. The Yard presented a performance by Ugandan dancer Godfrey Mulwulya. The international film series continued, and the Opera Club concluded its series presenting Wagner's epic Ring Cycle. The library celebrated William Shakespeare with Will Power, 10 programs that included movies, a concert of early music and a talk by Dan Sharkovitz, English Department chair at the MV Regional High School. The community celebrated the 40th anniversary of children's librarian, Deborah MacInnis, with a party and a proclamation from the library trustees.

**May:** A mini film series presented two comedies by Mel Brooks, and Adventures in Slow Cooking concluded another season with a recipe for Pork Carnitas. Prof. Lise Kildegaard gave a program on her work translating the "square stories" of Danish author Louis Jensen. Rob Bierregaard, ornithologist, presented his research on osprey migration. Children celebrated Cinco de Mayo and made presents for Mother's Day. In May, the library also completed a project months in the planning: installing ceiling panels to improve the acoustics in the program room.

**June:** Jack Clarke, Mass Audubon's Director of Public Policy, discussed how his organization is advocating for the environment. The Martha's Vineyard Spirituals Choir gave an afternoon concert. Thomas Dresser read from his book, *Hidden History of Martha's Vineyard*. The library launched a new film series, and the Opera Club presented Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*. Clara Kisco gave an illustrated talk on her walk through Spain, and biologists Luanne Johnson and Liz Baldwin shared their research on Vineyard bats. Kids made presents for teachers, built and raced Lego cars, learned about codes and ciphers, and decorated mugs for Father's Day.

**July:** Birding experts Soo Whiting, Allan Keith and Matt Pelikan held a panel program. Lanny McDowell's marine photography covered the program room's gallery wall through the month. Sounds Like Summer, the library's series of free Tuesday concerts on the lawn, featured Sabrina and the Groovers, Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish and the Joel Harris Trio. The Opera Club screened Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and authors Elin Hilderbrand, Robert Steele and Mark Schneider each gave talks about their new books. The Sheriff's Meadow Foundation offered a "virtual tour" of the Caroline Tuthill Preserve. The library's summer reading program



*Curious George visits for story hour.*

for children, based on the statewide theme, "Build a Better World," featured programs on whales, structural engineering and the science of flotation.

**August:** The program room's gallery wall featured paintings by artist Wendy Weldon. The Sounds Like Summer series presented concerts by the PickPocket Bluegrass Band, Good Night Louise, guitarist John Zeeman, Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish, and The Grateful Dread. Speakers gave instructional programs on using the iPad and the college applications process. Performing artists from The Yard led a discussion about Hip-Hop, and Sam Low screened his documentary film, *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific*. Authors giving talks in August included John Merrow, Skip Finley and Jean Stone. Dr. Bruce Ward, Emeritus Harvard



*Margot Datz at work on the Children's Room mural.*

Observatory, presented a program on the women whose computations guided the American space program. In conjunction, the library presented screenings of the film, *Hidden Figures*. And on August 21, as a lunar eclipse covered 60 percent of the sun, nearly a thousand people stopped by the library during an afternoon of astronomy programs.

The Children's Department repeated its popular Touch a Truck program in the Edgartown School parking lot, with children exploring police cars and ambulances, fire trucks and earth-movers. The summer program for kids concluded with an ice cream social.

**September:** Island artist Margot Datz began work on a project supported by the Friends of the Library: a colorful marine mural covering the east wall of the Children's Room. Ms. Datz is working on this ambitious project during library hours, giving visitors a unique opportunity to see what goes into her work. The second annual clothing swap drew a throng as hundreds of clothing articles found new owners and raffle winners scored prizes that ranged from a dozen fresh eggs every week for a year to a massage, a hand-made quilt, and a truckload of Morning Glory Farm compost.

The program room's gallery wall featured nighttime photography by artist (and former library trustee) Bob Avakian. A new film series launched, and the library book group began another season of lively discussions. The Vineyard Mediation Program gave a workshop on family property issues. Emily Histen of the Martha's Vineyard Charter School faculty led afternoon yoga programs for children, and the library sponsored a bird walk with Rob Culbert. The Children's Room celebrated the new school year with craft programs making bookmarks, paperweights and pencil cases.

**October:** Staff from all the Island's public libraries gathered at the Edgartown Library for a program led by Officer James Craig on preparing for emergency situations in public buildings. The library's films and yoga programs continued. Naturalist Matt Pelikan gave an illustrated talk on Vineyard butterflies. The Rural





*Johnny Hoy sings the blues on the library lawn.*

Scholars reported on their study into reproductive health on the Island. Classical guitarist Michael Nigro gave a concert, and the Opera Club screened Puccini's *Tosca*.

**November:** The library sponsored a guided nature walk at Caroline Tuthill Preserve and hosted a reading by Edgartown's poet laureate, Steve Ewing. The library celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Bogart-Bergman classic, *Casablanca*, with two screenings. The Katama Trio gave a recital. In the Children's Room, Margot Datz continued painting her mural, while kids in crafts programs made bracelets, handbags and graphic novels.

**December:** The library honored children's librarian Debby MacInnis with a retirement party on Dec. 1. Ms. MacInnis began her 40-year tenure before more than half of the library's current staff were born, and has served under six library directors. Her successor as children's librarian is Elyce Bonnell, Island-born and raised, a graduate of the Edgartown School, the regional high school and University of Southern Maine. Elyce joined the library staff in 2010, becoming department assistant in 2013 and circulation supervisor in 2015.

The library held its holiday open house on Christmas in Edgartown weekend, and offered two family crafts programs, making holiday centerpieces and gingerbread houses. Crafts programs filled the week of school vacation, and a family New Year's Eve party concluded the year on Saturday, Dec. 30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edgartown Free Public Library Board of Trustees  
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Board of Trustees meets on the third Thursday  
of each month.

### LIBRARY STAFF

Lisa Horton Sherman, Director  
Elyce Bonnell, Children's Librarian  
Emmy Sharkey, Circulation Supervisor  
Alison Leslie, Technical Services Librarian  
Eric J. Alexander, Department Assistant  
Nis Kildegaard, Reference Librarian  
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Library Assistant II  
Tom Ignacio, Library Assistant II  
Morgan Stanley Kominers, Library Assistant II  
Jelisa Difo, Library Assistant II

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

## Facts at a Glance

*fiscal year ending 6/30/2017*

Collection size.....	115,269
Books .....	35,652
Subscriptions.....	132
Audio CDs .....	2,559
Video .....	7,935
Downloadable audio .....	7,681
Downloadable books.....	60,413
Circulation.....	85,856
Edgartown residents holding library cards .....	2,377
Edgartown library cards total .....	6,798
Volunteers .....	53
Volunteer hours .....	488
Total attendance at programs.....	9,169

