



THOMASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2018 – 2019 Library Personnel Annual Report



Thomaston Public Library

Library Staff

Blake Donaldson
Diane Giese
Melissa Harjula
Toby Mergendahl
Caroline Ward-Nesbit

Library Volunteers

Lysbeth Andrews
James Augustine
Andi Isaacs
Patty McDonald
Paula Michaud
Erika Pfander
Judy Riff
Ann Robison
Mimi Zwick

40 Days of Summer Staff

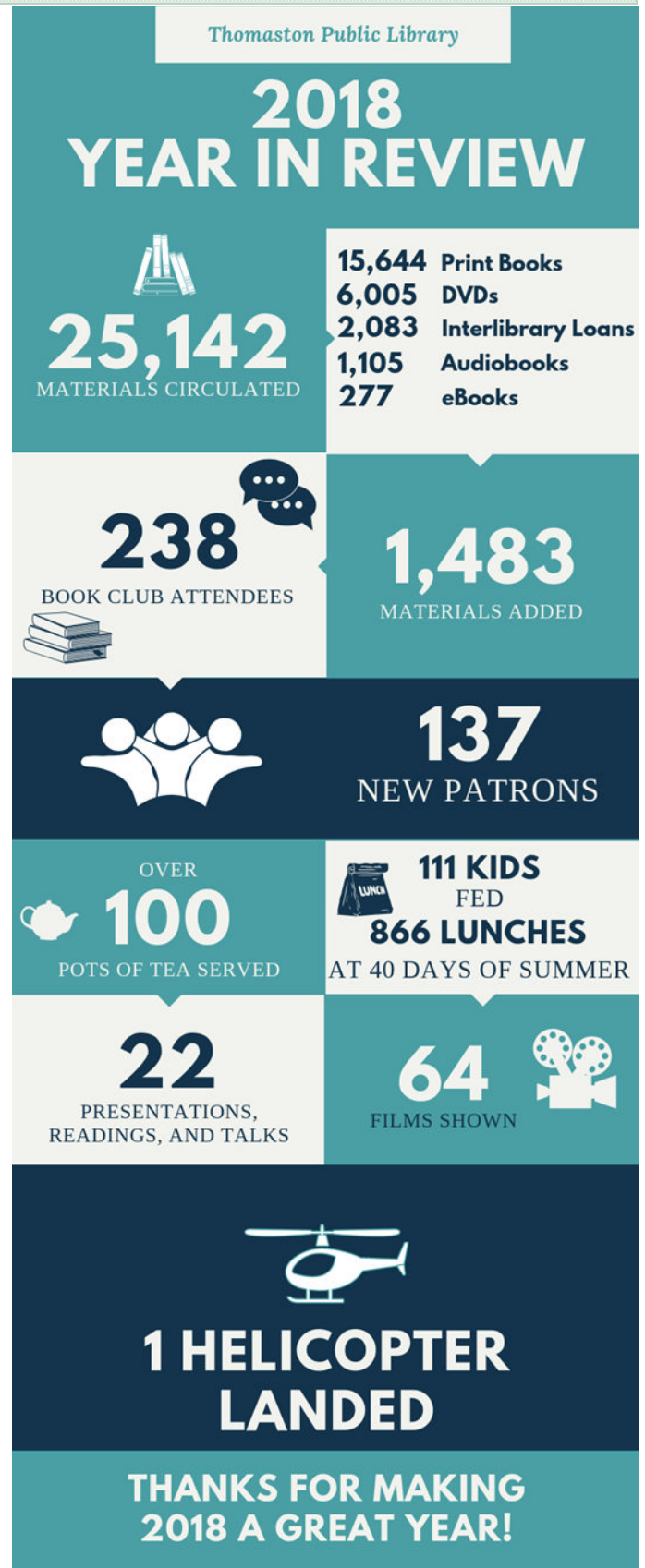
Hana Baker
Madison Bollinger
Toby Mergendahl
Delia Saastamoinen

Library Board of Trustees

Janet Bosworth, President
Greg Hamlin, Secretary
Al Bernier
Karen Clarke
William Dashiell
Marie Finnegan
Patricia Smith
Harold Wiley

Friends of the Library

Jeff Carty, President
Patty McDonald, Treasurer
Amanda Shortall, Secretary
Lysbeth Andrews
Janet Bosworth
Alice Dashiell
Shirley Hamlin
Lee Heffner
Erika Pfander



Annual Report 2018 – 2019

www.thomaston.lib.me.us

(207) 354-2453

tpl@thomaston.lib.me.us

Monday	11:00	to 7:00
Tuesday	11:00	to 5:00
Wednesday	11:00	to 5:00
Thursday	11:00	to 5:00
Friday	11:00	to 7:00
Saturday	9:00	to 1:00

Total Library Patrons: 1,392

Total Material Onsite: 25,645

Total eBooks and Audiobooks Available Online: 16,908

New Adult Books Added: 891

New Children's Books Added: 219

New Digital Media Added: 373

"When in doubt, go to the library."

– J. K. Rowling

"Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really any different from everyone else."

– Maya Angelou

"A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen instead."

– Caitlin Moran

Thomaston Public Library

What's New

Thomaston Public Library has been delighted to welcome longtime 40 Days staffer Toby Mergendahl to the regular library staff while he takes a gap year after high school. We have particularly welcomed his assistance while we have undertaken two major projects that have long been in the works for the library - migration to a new library management computer system, and reorganizing our collection to make it easier and more accessible for our patrons.

The library will officially go live with MILS (Maine InfoNet Library System), a shared library system specifically for Maine's small libraries, on April 30, 2019. We've been preparing for this change for over two years, which has involved re-barcoding all 25,000 items in the library as well as culling and inventorying the collection and more. It will soon be much easier for patrons to browse our online catalog and request interlibrary loan items.

Our second major project, reorganizing the collection, is complete! Thanks to Toby and Missy's efforts (lots of heavy lifting!), all of our materials are now in their new homes and collections are no longer split between floors.

The main room of the library is home to the following:

- Mystery
- Large print
- Audiobooks
- Graphic novels
- Teen collection (graphic novels, fiction, non-fiction and audiobooks)
- New non-fiction
- DVDs, including TV, movies and documentaries

Across the hall in what was formerly the Children's Room, we have our new Reading Room! It is home to the entirety of our general fiction collection and is a wonderfully cozy, quiet space.

In one half of the lower level, we still have our oversize, non-fiction, and biography collections and our small meeting room for tutoring or study groups. The other half, however, has been converted to our new Children's Area. We have a fun play area with plenty of toys, games, and puzzles in the center of our middle grade, emerging reader, and picture book collections.

On the second floor of the Academy Building, **we are thrilled to have leased a new Conference Room!** This large, sunny room is available for meetings, classes, writing groups, gaming groups, and more. There is no charge for non-profit organizations, so please contact us to check the calendar if you are in need of a meeting space. We have also moved our reference collection to this room because it is also perfect for quiet study and research!

Cornestones of Science, a non-profit organization dedicated to working with public libraries providing programs and resources for science education, generously donated an Orion Star Blast 4.5" Reflector Telescope to the library! The donation was in honor of Rudi Graf for his dedication to community science experiences and as a board member to Cornerstones for many years. The library is looking forward to hosting many astronomy programs soon and the telescope will be available for patrons to borrow to use at home as well.

Services Thomaston Public Library Offers:

- Collection of 25,000 materials, including print books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, Kindles, and more

Thomaston Public Library

- Readers' advisory - our extremely knowledgeable staff is always happy to help you find your next book to read or DVD to watch
- Bookmobile home delivery services to homebound patrons
- Resource sharing (downloadable books, online databases, and library collections across the nation via interlibrary loan services)
- Free Wifi
- Free passes to the Farnsworth Art Museum
- Printing, faxing, copying and scanning
- Reference services
- Drop-in technology troubleshooting and assistance
- Eight computers available for patrons and community members to use
- Meeting rooms available to local non-profit organizations for tutoring, CSC classes, counseling sessions, teacher work sessions, etc.

Programs:

- **40 Days of Summer** - our wildly successful summer activities and lunch program for school-aged children will be going into its sixth year in 2019
- **Family Movie & Pizza Night** - monthly family-friendly movie selections and free pizza in the main reading room
- **Communi-TEA** - our community gathering on the third Friday of every month with tea, treats, friends and neighbors
- **Friday Night Films** - carefully curated foreign, classic, and indie films every week
- **Book Clubs** - the library currently hosts three vibrant and active book clubs every month: the Intergenerational Book Club, Let's Talk About It, and a new mystery book club
- **Annual Poetry Reading** - hosted in conjunction with publisher and poet Martha Rhodes of Four Way Books every August
- **Weekly storytime**
- **School vacation activities**
- **Author talks, community presentations, photographic exhibits, and more!**

Follow us on social media (our book mail videos on YouTube are fun!) and subscribe to our monthly email newsletter to stay up-to-date on our events, new materials being added to the collection, and services offered.

Grants, Awards, Donations, and Contributions:

The library is extremely grateful to all the following entities and individuals for their generous contributions and gifts to the library over the past year:

Friends of the Thomaston Public Library

We are most fortunate to have the unflagging generosity of the Friends of the Thomaston Public Library. The library received over \$16,000 from them to support its operating budget as well as monies to enhance the scope of the community offerings including our Hallway Bookstore, Friday Night Films, and other expenses not covered by the regular budget.

40 Days of Summer Donations/Grants

Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust

Thomaston Public Library

St. John the Baptist Church in Thomaston

Rockland Kiwanis Club

American Legion Post 1 in Rockland, various committees

Many community members also donated money, time, in-kind support to the program which made the fifth year of this activities and lunch program successful.

The Rudman Grant was awarded to the library and allowed us to add lots of titles focusing on international and Maine mysteries, science fiction and fantasy, and graphic novels.

Finally, and as always, the library extends gratitude to all our patrons, supporters, Friends, board members, and volunteers, who have given untold hours to the library over the past year, doing everything from cleaning, painting, decorating, baking, running events, arranging displays, culling, shelving, setting up book sales, and keeping our plants vibrant and healthy. We extend a warm Thank You! To every one of you as well as to everyone who responded to the Friends of the Thomaston Public Library's Annual Appeal. You are the "community" in our community living room!

