

2022 - 2023

LIBRARY
PERSONNEL
ANNUAL REPORT



THOMASTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY



LIBRARY
STAFF

Caroline Ward-Nesbit
Melissa Harjula
Caitlin Theroux
Blake Donaldson
Janet Dwelley
Janet Clark

40 DAYS OF
SUMMER
STAFF

Toby Mergendahl
Aly Trainor
Gauge Wass

VOLUNTEERS

Elizabeth Barstow
Janet Bosworth
Diane Giese
Brielle Goldrick
Chris Harjula
Eva O'Hare
Patricia MacDonald
John Nesbit
Ginny Spivey
Connor Theroux
Alice Wilkinson

It has been a whirlwind of a year! Thomaston Public Library has been working its way back to "normal" and we are delighted to share some of the amazing things we have been up to in 2022, and a few of our plans for 2023.

The 40 Days of Summer program, finally back to primarily in-person programming, was a fantastic success in 2022. Toby Mergendahl, now in his eighth year with 40 Days, led a great team with Gauge Wass and Aly Trainor. Over ten weeks they did science experiments, made splatter paintings, built pirate ships, ran obstacle courses, tie-dyed t-shirts, launched bottle rockets with Ted Mahler, and welcomed presenters such as Sparks' Ark, Pope Memorial Humane Society, Knox Museum, Chewonki Foundation, Mr. Drew and His Animals, Too, and ecomaine. We are proud to have continued to reduce food insecurity in our community by serving 1,554 meals over the summer to over 100 kids from more than 60 families. We are looking forward to our **10th summer** in 2023!

The library was also thrilled to once again be a recipient of a grant from the Anonimo Foundation which allows us to provide weekly take-home projects and crafts for kids. Some of our recent projects have included piggy banks, pipe-cleaner finger puppets, and egg-carton snowmen.

For adult programming, our four book clubs are still going strong, including our monthly Mystery, Intergenerational, and Pop-Up Book Clubs, and our bi-monthly Let's Talk About It book group. Our Senior Exercise Class led by Sandy Bodamer continues to be very well attended, and we are happy to announce that it will soon be co-sponsored by the Thomaston Recreation Department, which will help us benefit even more people with gentle strength training and balance exercises for folks of all fitness levels!



Communi-Tea is once again a wonderful opportunity to socialize with neighbors and enjoy some scrumptious sweets and savories and of course delicious tea on the third Friday of every month.

We have started two new biweekly programs that we are very excited about - the TPL Poets' Corner, a friendly gathering of creatives of all experience levels to share original poetry, and the Crafters' Club, which welcomes anyone and all crafts, including knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, papercrafts, and more.

We are delighted to finally be relaunching our Family Movie & Pizza Nights this spring! Visit our website at thomaston.lib.me.us for more details.

The library partnered with our neighbors at the Cushing Public Library to put on a very successful series of programs in the summer of 2022, including presentations from Chewonki and the Wild Seed Project, as well as an excellent author talk from local bestselling author Paul Doiron! This partnership worked so well for both communities we are continuing it in 2023 and have a wonderful slate of programs planned, including author talks from Elizabeth Garber, Laura Bonazzoli and Jodi Paloni, Bill Roorbach, Mac Smith, and Barbara Ross, as well as a concert from musician Marc Black. Visit our website at thomaston.lib.me.us for more details!

Of course, we also continue to offer a fantastic selection of print, audio, and digital books, as well as movies, puzzles, science and nature exploration kits, Farnsworth Museum and Coastal Maine Botanical Garden passes, and more.

None of this would be possible without the support of this incredible community, which we are grateful for every day.

With thanks,

Caroline Ward-Nesbit
Head Librarian

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

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