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Friends of the Thomaston Public Library Memorial Contributions

The library remembers with gratitude the following deceased patrons whose families and friends generously offered memorial contributions in their honor to the Friends of the Library through June 30, 2016:

Agatha (Val) Polowy
Dorothy Spooner
Virginia Flynn

Judy & Paul Szymanski
Margaret Taylor
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THOMASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

248 Main Street
Thomaston CT 06787
860-283-4339
www.thomastonlibrary.org

Annual Report 2015-2016

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Your Library
Informing - Engaging
Entertaining

Dear Friends and Patrons

There is a lot to love about the Thomaston Public Library. It is one of our community's most treasured assets. It's a vital town anchor that exemplifies the spirit of Thomaston and enriches the intellectual and creative life of the community.

And, it is not just our wonderful collections. Our wide-ranging services, programs and helpful, devoted staff make the library a great place to relax, learn and engage.

This year, we are particularly pleased with the number and variety of our programs for children and adults. Author talks, scholar-led book discussions, gardening instruction, meditation training and musical concerts are just a few of the eclectic programs sponsored by our Friends of the Library for adults. Thomaston's Margaret Ackley volunteered her expertise to help our aging citizens understand the complexities of the Medicare program. As always, your suggestions for future programs are always welcome!

Our fantastic children's department provided story hours and craft programs for local children. Volunteer David LaManna visited the library with his amazing exotic animals and reptiles. He also presented a program on foreign currency. Over 80 children attended

Leave a Legacy at the Library

A generous bequest from Thomaston resident Eleanor Conway enabled the library, in cooperation with the Connecticut State Library, to offer the public an indexed digital archive of The (Thomaston) Express weekly newspaper. In recent years, donors have informed us of their intention to include a gift to the Thomaston Public Library in their wills. There are two options. One can make a bequest to the Friends of the Thomaston

both programs. The Teen Murder Mystery program brought 20 teens to the library and the annual Children Craft Fair had 29 crafters and 150 shoppers!

Our annual report highlights some of the accomplishments of last year. We have included statistics on our collection and circulation. But, as libraries continue to evolve into community centers, highlighting the services and programs we provide more accurately shows the overall involvement between citizens and their library.

Our report also gives us the opportunity to thank publicly our supporters who have made generous contributions the past year. Without their support we would not be able to offer all of these programs and services.

Thank you for all you do for the Thomaston Public Library.

Maryann Sandford
Chair, Board of Trustees

Debra Radosevich
Library Director

Public Library or you may wish to contribute to the endowment for the library. These gifts provide an estate tax deduction and have a tremendous impact on our ability to accomplish much needed projects such as the Express digitization mentioned above.

If you would like information on how to include The Thomaston Public Library in your will or estate plan, please contact us.

The Year by the Numbers

The library's collection of materials as of June 30, 2016 is as follows:

BOOKS	2016	2015	2014	2013
Adult Books	23,766	24,087	24,382	24,308
Teen Books	1,520	1,556	1,477	1,709
Children's Books	13,573	14,642	14,430	14,557
Subscriptions	61	61		
TOTAL Books	38,920	40,346	40,289	40,574
NON-BOOK items				
Audio	3,111	2,994	2,907	2,756
Video	3,920	3,647	3,418	3,212
Other	109	25		
eBooks - we own	107	912	5,468	4,412
eBooks - state owns	925			
eAudio - we own	392	2,926	2,196	4,638
eAudio - state owns	3,075			
TOTAL Non-Books	11,639	10,504	13,989	15,018

For 2015-16, the total circulation of all library materials was:

BOOKS & SERIALS	2015-16	2014-15
Adult	21,976	23,560
Teen	2,714	2,613
Children's	20,221	20,946
TOTAL	44,911	47,119
AUDIO		
Adult	3,654	4,640
Teen	45	62
Children's	382	302
TOTAL	4,081	5,004

ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION	2015-16	2014-15
eAudio	614	694
eBooks	251	413
TOTAL	865	1,107

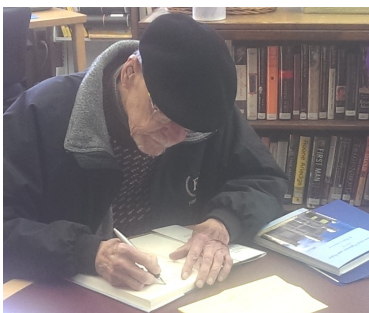
VIDEO	2015-16	2014-15
Adult	10,854	13,979
Teen	7	4
Children's	2,874	4,091
TOTAL	13,735	18,074
ALL OTHER ITEMS		
Adult	198	221
Children's	791	
TOTAL	989	221

CIRCULATION TOTALS	2015-16
Total Adult Circulation	37,547
Total Teen Circulation	2,766
Total Children's Circ	24,268
TOTAL CIRCULATION	64,581

Adult Programs

Programs offered by the Thomaston Public Library are varied and designed to appeal to wide audiences. Health, taxes, entertainment, finance and, of course, literature are all offered throughout the year. Some of the programs offered for adults this year are listed below:

Author Talks & Book Signings (3)



Ted Roth:
Brass Valley
Sydney Sherman:
You Are Not Alone
Walter Robinson:
Connecticut Vignettes & Visits (left)

Book Discussion Group (12)

Classic Book Club (4)

What is Hospice Volunteering?

Black Bears in Connecticut

Bobcats in Connecticut

Cut the Cord - Watch TV for Less!

Fruits & Berries with George (5 part series)

George's Butterfly Tent

Home Gardening with George (7 part series)

Self Defense for Women

Color Me Calm - Coloring for Adults

Passport to Connecticut Libraries

The Art of Being Happy

The Kerry Boys in Concert

A Supernatural Evening with Jeff Belanger

Understanding Medicare

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

(VITA - 198 appointments)

Wreath Making with George

2015-16 PROGRAMMING	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE
Adult	66	1,294
Teen	46	480
Children's	502	10,293
<i>0-2 Year Olds</i>	55	1,250
<i>3-5 Year Olds</i>	143	3,160
<i>6-12 Year Olds</i>	304	5,883
TOTAL	614	12,067

Babies - Tweens - Teens / Sprout - Grow - Thrive

The Children's Department continues to encourage the children of Thomaston to be involved in their library. Popular preschool programs include Baby Time, Toddler Time, Alphabits and Crayon Box. Amazing Animals, featuring trivia and games about wild animals, has been very successful for Kindergarteners to 3rd graders, while Chess Club for 4th-6th graders continues to be one of our most popular after school activities.

Family programs demonstrate to our youth the value of the library at every age and inspire young readers to develop a



love of the library that will last throughout their lives. Mother-Daughter Book Club is going strong celebrating its 10th year at our library. The Tri-Wizard Tournament drew Harry Potter lovers of all

ages and magical persuasions. Muggles and wizards alike read the first three books in the series complete with wizard snacks and wand making instruction. Our Reading Together selection this May was *Toys Go Out* by Emily Jenkins. Families were encouraged to borrow and read the book together and attend a stuffed animal sleepover and tea party inspired by the story.

Community volunteers are an important asset to the library. David LaManna of Thomaston Insurance, generously visited several times this year, with spiders, lizards, and a program on foreign currency. Younger community members volunteered by shelving books, preparing Baby Bags, and scooping ice cream at the Summer Reading Finale. And we are always thankful for the Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Beautification Committee for maintaining our lovely gardens.

World renowned Casey Carle's Bubble Mania kicked off our Seussical Summer Reading in June. Ms. Melissa and Mrs. Gaudette entertained children with Seussical silliness and invited them to explore the nonsensical Seuss house Mr. Gaudette built for them to enjoy. In collaboration with the Warner Theater, two lucky families were awarded tickets to attend the Warner's live production of *Suessical the Musical*, a fitting tribute to a fantastical summer of reading!

As another year comes to a close we have seen many new faces join our teen programming. Two events introduced a few years ago that continue to grow in popularity are the Murder Mystery and the end of summer Auction Night. The auction program encourages teens to read and visit the library all summer to earn tickets used to win prizes at the auction. Some prizes are purchased with funds the teens have raised throughout the year but the most popular prizes, by far, are the autographed advanced reader copies of books that Ms. Melissa acquires at Book Expo.



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Other enriching events for children offered this year included the Annual Children's Craft Fair, Sidewalk Science, Afternoon Movies, American Girl Club, Lego Brick Builders, Be a Hero, Learn to Sign Storytime, Star Wars Lightsaber Training, Karate Demonstration, Hula Hoop Party, Mystic Aquarium Hermit Crab, International Jazz Storytime, Ninja Reader and Scavenger Hunt, I Mustache You a Question, Pumpkin Weight Guessing, Mystic Aquarium Explore the Shore, Magic Club, Halloween Parties, Puppet Performer Father Goose, Nature Nick Exotic Animals and Stop Short Animation.