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### Friends of the Thomaston Public Library Memorial Contributions

We remember 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, 2017:

Robert J. Nevers  
 Helen Kohanski  
 Esther Johnston  
 Jeanne DiMaria  
 Marie Kilman  
 Anna Torrence  
 Carol Johnson  
 Chalmus Stevens  
 Barbara Clark  
 Donald Hanrahan



**THOMASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
 248 Main Street  
 Thomaston CT 06787  
 860-283-4339  
 www.thomastonlibrary.org

### Annual Report 2016-2017

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### Your Library Informing - Engaging Entertaining

## Dear Friends and Patrons

This Annual Report is designed to inform the citizens of Thomaston about the library's collections, programs and services offered in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The information contained in this report is based upon statistical data, collected by our library staff members and submitted to the Connecticut State Library for inclusion in its publication, *Connecticut's Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile*. The Annual Report is presented to the Library Board at its Annual Meeting, held on the first Tuesday in December, and is made available for public perusal following the Annual Meeting.

One of the most frequently asked questions these days is, "What will libraries be like in the future?" Currently, we offer our wonderful collections and extraordinary service from friendly, helpful staff. Our children's, teen and adult programs have adapted to meet the needs of the community. We have responded as new technology and new media emerged. Most importantly, we recognized that the Library will forever be

a place that informs the mind, engages the spirit and keeps us connected to each other.

You can see the amazing statistics about all of our great offerings on the following pages of our report. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and patrons, our library is a community destination and the place where people come to read, connect and learn.

As we move forward, it is time for us to write the Library's next chapter. To help shape our future, we will have extensive conversations with the community.

With your support, we will continue to transform the Library to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of our patrons.

Maryann Sandford, Chair  
 Board of Trustees

## Special Project Preserves THS Yearbooks

A special project initiated this year was digitization of Thomaston High School yearbooks. The OWL yearbooks were shipped to, and scanned by, inmates at the Oklahoma Correctional Institute (OCI) for preservation and safeguard against damage, at no cost. Both THS and the library have received digital copies of the files.

Next, Advantage Preservation will use optical character recognition to create an indexed and searchable database of the OWLs. This part of the project is being funded by Friends of the Library. When complete, the yearbooks will be accessible through the library's website. (All years except the elusive 1979. Have one to loan?)



## The Year by the Numbers

The library's collection of materials as of June 30, 2017 is as follows:

BOOKS	2017	2016	2015	2014
Adult Books	23,714	23,766	24,087	24,382
Teen Books	1,574	1,520	1,556	1,477
Children's Books	13,898	13,573	14,642	14,430
Subscriptions	67	61	61	
<b>TOTAL Books</b>	<b>39,253</b>	<b>38,920</b>	<b>40,346</b>	<b>40,289</b>
NON-BOOK items				
Audio	3,166	3,111	2,994	2,907
Video	3,936	3,920	3,647	3,418
Other		109	25	
eBooks - we own	106	107	912	5,468
eBooks - state owns	882	925		
eAudio - we own	445	392	2,926	2,196
eAudio - state owns	2851	3,075		
<b>TOTAL Non-Books</b>	<b>11,386</b>	<b>11,639</b>	<b>10,504</b>	<b>13,989</b>

For 2016-17, the total circulation of all library materials was:

BOOKS & SERIALS	2016-17	2015-16
Adult	20,376	21,976
Teen	2,081	2,714
Children's	18,011	20,221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,468</b>	<b>44,911</b>
AUDIO		
Adult	2,881	3,654
Teen	36	45
Children's	279	382
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>4,081</b>

ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION	2016-17	2015-16
eAudio	637	614
eBooks	240	251
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>865</b>

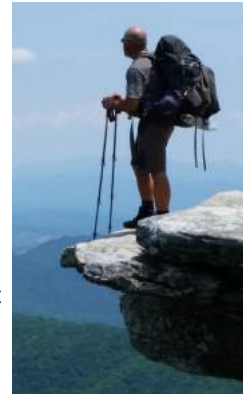
VIDEO	2016-17	2015-16
Adult	10,413	10,854
Teen	5	7
Children's	2,511	2,874
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,929</b>	<b>13,735</b>
ALL OTHER ITEMS		
Adult	195	198
Children's	725	791
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>989</b>

CIRCULATION TOTALS	2016-17
Total Adult Circulation	33,865
Total Teen Circulation	2,122
Total Children's Circ	21,526
Total Electronic Circ	877
<b>TOTAL CIRCULATION</b>	<b>58,390</b>

## Programs for Adults

The Thomaston Public Library's adult programs are designed to appeal to audiences of various ages and interests. Popular programs featuring health, nature, entertainment, gardening, crafts, finance and, of course, literature are offered throughout the year. This year we presented:

- Book Discussion Group (12 meetings) including one author led discussion
- Classic Book Club (4 meetings)
- Author Talk & Book Signing:
  - Martin Podskotch - Connecticut CCC Camps
  - Home Gardening with George (10 part series)
  - Maintaining the Home Landscape (4 part series)
  - The Art of Being Happy (two 3 part programs)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA - 311 appointments)
- Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker Sam Ducharme
- Wreath Making with George
- Holiday Centerpiece Workshop
- Yoga (6 classes)
- The Needs of the Time: Thomaston in WWI
- The Kerry Boys in Concert
- Understanding Medicare
- Passport Fair
- Painting Party with Ash
- Renaissance Christmas Concert by Entwyned Early Music
- Take Your Child to the Library Day
- "Five Wishes" Living Will Program
- One Simple Change for Health and Wellness
- Wildlife and Connecticut's Changing Landscape
- Writing Workshop (7 sessions)



2016-17 PROGRAMMING	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE
Adult	61	1,345
Teen	52	567
Children's	556	11,070
0-2 Year Olds	52	1,220
3-5 Year Olds	137	3,361
6-12 Year Olds	367	6,489
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>12,982</b>

## Programs for Children / Babies - Tweens - Teens

**Teen Info** - As another year comes to a close, we reflect upon the many new faces that we met through our teen programs. We hosted two Connecticut teen authors, Karen Fortunati and Rebecca Podos, shown at right, with our teens. They discussed their new books, "The Weight of Zero" and "The Mystery of Hollow Places."



Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Massachusetts. This trip gave the teens a wider author panel to meet, as well as the chance to speak with several other authors, as shown above. One favorite author was Nicola Yoon, who wrote "Everything, Everything" and "The Sun is Also a Star." Nicola Yoon discussed her latest book and how "Everything, Everything," her first novel, was being made into a movie that was released Spring 2017.

**Children's Info** - Our Children's Department encourages families with children of all ages to investigate the many offerings at our library. This past year we provided a variety of programs from birth to teen, including such popular programs as baby time, Alphabits, Piggie and Elephant Mondays, Paint Zone and Friday night afterhours for teens.



This year our Children's department was blessed to have local artist Sherrie Neddermann paint a mural in our story time area. Sherrie's latest mural has been a huge hit among patrons of all ages. This new mural of fairies and woodland creatures has encouraged children to make up lavish stories to complement the artwork.

Back by popular demand, we held an afterhours Halloween party for kids in grades four through seven. One favorite game was "donut on a string" where each player had to eat a donut hanging by a string without using hands. This exciting night was capped off with a quick game of hide and seek in the library, which the kids look forward to playing every year.



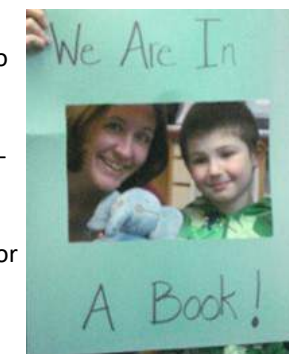
Families were invited to participate in a Gingerbread workshop the Friday following Thanksgiving. Twelve families signed up to decorate their preassembled house with several different types of candy decorations. House designs ranged from simple to elaborate, but all were sweet and delightful.

December in the Children's Department is always busy! This year's children's craft fair had 15 crafters, musical guests from the Center School Band and plenty of shoppers. Our annual Santa visit was a huge success, with each child receiving a book and stocking from Santa.



During holiday vacation we celebrated Star Wars with the film "A New Hope," games Star Wars Bingo and trivia, and a visit from the Children's Museum Starlab which presented a program about constellations and how they were named.

The Winter Reading theme was Just Keep Reading. When children checked out books they wrote their name on one of the many fish decorating the library walls. Everyone who registered for this program was given a chance to win Finding Dory themed prizes. This year we had 96 participants in the reading program, in addition to 105 young and old participants in our Finding Dory scavenger hunt.



The summer 2017 reading theme was Reading Wonderland, based on the book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" written by Lewis Carroll. Kicking off the summer we held a tea party where families came to register for all of the great programs and have a spot of tea. This was a huge success with several of the summer programs filling up, prompting additional sessions. The following Thursday we had Animal Show on the Go visit the library to teach the kids about animal rehabilitation. Combined, these two programs had over 357 people in attendance.