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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, 2018:

Paul Tracy
Stephen Shypinka
Bud Gooley
Walter Robinson
Gloria Kane
Paul Chizinski



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

Annual Report 2017-2018

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Your Library
Informing - Engaging
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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 2017-2018. 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.

The Thomaston Public Library has delivered another year of outstanding value and service to our community. Thousands of people of all ages continue to use the library for our programs, services and outstanding collections.

This year we have embarked on the creation of a Strategic Plan that will help define what our library will look like in the coming decade. The library's role in the community has been changing. We need to understand what the community needs from us and deliver services to meet those needs.

Help for Seasonal Affective Disorder

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of major depressive disorder, and sufferers may exhibit any of the associated symptoms, such as feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness, thoughts of suicide, loss of interest in activities and withdrawal from social interaction.

As more and more technology becomes available to people in their homes and on their own devices, it would seem that the need for library technology has lessened. That is simply not true. There is a huge "digital divide" in this country and in our community. Many of our citizens have very basic computer knowledge and many cannot afford or do not wish to pay for internet service in their home. Our staff expends a great deal of time and energy assisting patrons to accomplish tasks that are now required to be done online.

Our staff is looking forward to providing you with the programs, events and services you require. Components of the Strategic Plan will include a survey and focus groups. Please make an effort to attend an upcoming focus group and complete a survey to help us understand your needs for library services. The only way we can continue to offer the programs, services and technology you need is with your input.

Maryann Sandford, Chair
Board of Trustees

A Thomaston patron has generously donated two Suntouch light and therapy lamps that patrons can check out and use at home. But it's not just a SAD lamp as it also releases healthy, negative ions into the air for added therapy. Come in and check it out!

The Year by the Numbers

The library's **COLLECTION** of materials as of June 30, 2018 is as follows:

BOOKS	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adult Books	23,659	23,714	23,766	24,087
Teen Books	1,518	1,574	1,520	1,556
Children's Books	13,740	13,898	13,573	14,642
Subscriptions	65	67	61	61
TOTAL Books	38,982	39,253	38,920	40,346
NON-BOOK items				
Audio	3,217	3,166	3,111	2,994
Video	3,879	3,936	3,920	3,647
Other	274		109	25
eBooks - we own	115	106	107] 912
eBooks - state owns	972	882	925	
eAudio - we own	485	445	392] 2,926
eAudio - state owns	2,982	2,851	3,075	
TOTAL Non-Books	11,924	11,386	11,639	10,504

For 2017-18, the total **CIRCULATION** of all library materials was:

BOOKS & SERIALS	2017-18	2016-17
Adult	19,260	20,376
Teen	1,663	2,081
Children's	14,312	18,011
TOTAL	35,235	40,468
AUDIO		
Adult	2,350	2,881
Teen	45	36
Children's	212	279
TOTAL	2,607	3,196

ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION	2017-18	2016-17
eAudio	858	637
eBooks	209	240
TOTAL	1,067	877


VIDEO	2017-18	2016-17
Adult	8,502	10,413
Teen	8	5
Children's	2,348	2,511
TOTAL	10,858	12,929
ALL OTHER ITEMS		
Adult	188	195
Children's	366	725
TOTAL	554	920

CIRCULATION TOTALS	2017-18
Total Adult Circulation	30,300
Total Teen Circulation	1,716
Total Children's Circ	17,238
Total Electronic Circ	1,067
TOTAL CIRCULATION	50,321

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:



 Holiday Centerpiece Workshops (2 sessions)
Book Discussion Group (12 meetings, one led by author)
Classic Book Club (4 talks led by Mark Schenker)
De-Clutter Your Home /Cindy Rhys

Home Gardening with George (6 part series)

Growing Fruits & Berries (4 part series)

The Practice of Loving Kindness Meditation (2 part series)

Volunteer Income Tax Help (VITA – 309 appointments)

The Rise and Fall (?) of the Opioid Epidemic

Wreath Making with George Jack-O-Lantern Contest

Yoga (6 classes)

Modern Calligraphy Workshop for Beginners

The Kerry Boys in Concert
Understanding Medicare



2017-18 PROGRAMMING	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE
Adult	46	1,002
Teen	39	385
Children's	298	5,160
Family	116	3,007
TOTAL	499	9,554

Programs for Children / Babies - Tweens - Teens

Teen Info - As we wrap up another year of teen programs, let's reflect upon how the teen advisory board has given back to the library. During this past winter the teen advisory board decided to work on remaking the library's holiday banners. These banners were originally designed by Deborah Chipman in the late nineteen eighties and hung in the library during the Christmas season until they were beyond repair. The teens felt this would be a great way to give back to the library. Two of our teen artists updated the designs while the rest cut out the resulting patterns. Every Tuesday night in November they would meet at the library to work on these three banners until they were completed.



Over the years some of our teens who have moved on, have offered to give back to the next generation of teens. One in particular, Ashley Royer, above, has come back for the last few years during our summer reading program to teach a teen paint night. This particular program is one of our more popular teen summer programs we offer every year. Others have offered to lend a hand during the teen advisory board bake sales and events that they enjoyed doing while in TAB.



Children's Info - The Children's Department encourages families with children of all ages to discover all we have to offer. This past year we have provided a

variety of programs for birth to teen, including such popular programs as Baby Time, Crayon Box, Stuffed Animal workshops, our Annual Easter Egg hunt, and White Memorial's presentation of animal adaptation.

One new program we are offering our tweens is a murder mystery party. This program, left, was a huge success with over thirty tweens registered to participate in "Mystery at the Library". Each participant was able to pick a character from our list

and dress up as that character. Those that attended this program had a blast trying to figure out what happen to King Henry. Needless to say, many of the participants requested that we must make this a permanent activity in our summer reading program.



A very popular family program we offer in addition to Santa's visit is our annual Gingerbread workshop, left, that is held the Friday after Thanksgiving. Roughly twenty families registered for this fun program to decorate their preassembled house with a variety of candy decorations. This program is always a fun for the whole family listening to the "Polar Express" soundtrack and enjoying festive snacks and beverages.

Like clockwork on the first Saturday in December, the library hosts the annual Children's Craft Fair. Kids have an opportunity to sell their crafts and earn a little money for the upcoming holiday. These young entrepreneurs have the chance to sell their Christmas ornaments, bracelets, earrings, knitted hats, and this year's most popular



item, fairy orbs. Our TAB group helped out at this event selling a lunch special of hot dogs, chips and beverages. They also had a variety of premade baked good items. This year they made fresh donuts to order.