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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 this fiscal year:

Madelyn McAdam
Jeanne Larocque
Barbara Lafreniere
Jagwiga Piotrowski



THOMASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
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www.thomastonlibrary.org

Annual Report 2018-2019

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Your Library
Informing - Engaging
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Dear Friends and Patrons

"...there is no use to which money could be applied so productive of good... as the founding of a public library in a community."

Andrew Carnegie

Our library serves as the great equalizer in our community. Everyone is welcome. Through our collection and many programs we are able to bring the citizens of our community together, in spite of their differences.

The affluent and the less wealthy citizens come together through shared interests such as literature and arts and crafts. Seniors who live alone and feel isolated, young mothers who need just a little adult interaction and the teens of our community who feel that they don't fit in with the sports and social crowd have a place where they can come to engage and participate in group activities.

While online and remote access availability has made for a more isolated lifestyle for many, the library has become a place where people

come and make friends across lines.

This is our 2018-2019 Annual Report. It will outline statistics about our collections and circulation. It will also list the programs sponsored by our Friends of the Library that make it possible for our citizens to come together.

Thank you to all our contributors: our Friends who donate funds, our volunteers who provide hands-on service, and our citizens who advocate for our library in the community. Without your efforts we would not be able to provide the programs and service to our community.

Maryann Sandford, Chair
Board of Trustees

Borrow the Internet from the Library!

The library has purchased a mobile WiFi hotspot that can be borrowed by Thomaston library patrons in good standing (18 or older) and brought home or taken on vacation to connect to the internet. Our hotspot is an easy-to-use, small wireless access point that keeps

your tablet, laptop, cell phone and other WiFi enabled devices connected to the Internet in any area covered by the Sprint LTE network, up to 10 devices at once. On our website, read the hotspot lending policy and agreement and see how easy it is to take the internet with you!

The Year by the Numbers

The library's **COLLECTION** of materials as of June 30, 2019 is as follows:

BOOKS	2019	2018	2017	2016
Adult Books	23,424	23,659	23,714	23,766
Teen Books	1,488	1,518	1,574	1,520
Children's Books	13,659	13,740	13,898	13,573
Subscriptions	46	65	67	61
TOTAL Books	38,577	38,982	39,253	38,920
NON-BOOK items				
Audio	3,267	3,217	3,166	3,111
Video	3,962	3,879	3,936	3,920
Other	118	274		109
eBooks - we own	120	115	106	107
eBooks - state owns	1088	972	882	925
eAudio - we own	527	485	445	392
eAudio - state owns	3090	2,982	2,851	3,075
TOTAL Non-Books	12,172	11,924	11,386	11,639

For 2018-19, the total **CIRCULATION** of all library materials was:

BOOKS & SERIALS	2018-19	2017-18
Adult	18,208	19,260
Teen	1,448	1,663
Children's	13,541	14,312
TOTAL	33,197	35,235
AUDIO		
Adult	1875	2,350
Teen	11	45
Children's	146	212
TOTAL	2,032	2,607

ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION	2018-19	2017-18
eAudio	1058	858
eBooks	195	209
Video	658	0
TOTAL	1,911	1,067

VIDEO	2018-19	2017-18
Adult	7,847	8,502
Teen	7	8
Children's	2,167	2,348
TOTAL	10,021	10,858
ALL OTHER ITEMS		
Adult	177	188
Teen	0	0
Children's	312	366
Other	75	
TOTAL	564	554

CIRCULATION TOTALS	2018-19
Total Adult Circulation	28,107
Total Teen Circulation	1,466
Total Children's Circ	16,166
Total Electronic Circ	1,911
TOTAL CIRCULATION	47,650

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:

The Book Discussion Group (12 meetings)
 It's A Classic! - The Classic Book Club (4 talks led by Dr. Mark Schenker)
 Volunteer Income Tax Help - VITA (272 appointments)
 Long Term Care in Connecticut
 Stoned! Crystals and Stone Healing
 Creating with Chocolate



The Kerry Boys in Concert
 Author Talks/Book Signings (4)
 Plant a Little Love - Terrariums
 Home Gardening with George (9 sessions)
 Plant Swap
 Maximizing Your Social Security Benefits

Personal Budget Basics
 A Pleasant Pairing - Tea and Fine Chocolate
 UNA @ the Library - United Nations Association of CT Lecture Series (4 lectures)
 My Life as a Minstrel
 Financial Literacy Workshop
 Beginning Social Bridge - 4 sessions
 What Lies Ahead in Retirement?
 Spirits of New England with Dustin J. Pari
 Jack-O-Lantern Contest
 Understanding Medicare
 Wreath Making with George (2 sessions)
 Holiday Centerpiece Workshops (2 sessions)



2018-19 PROGRAMMING	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE
Adult	82	1241
Teen	46	364
Children's	328	6048
Family	24	1132
TOTAL	480	8785

Programs for Children / Babies - Tweens - Teens

Our **Children's Department** continues to encourage families with children of all ages to explore the wide range of programming we have to offer. We present a variety of programs from birth to teen, our most popular events being baby time, story time, murder mysteries, and mother/daughter book club. This year's murder mystery, *Hero and Villains Summit Murder Mystery*, was broken into two sessions, due to its huge success the previous year.

CHILDREN: Throughout the **2018-2019 year**, we have been shifting our focus to programming that includes participation by every member of the family. This summer began with our family paint nights and cookbook clubs. These programs were a huge hit among families with kids of all ages. In October, we had a family pumpkin carving night,



with over 34 families participating. In November, we offered our annual Gingerbread House Workshop, with roughly 82 participants. December kicked off with our annual craft fair, as well as two Snow White tea parties for our little library users. Wrapping up 2018, we held our first ever family potluck party, where everyone brought a dish to share as



we counted down until the noon hour. Local chocolatier Amy White got our February winter reading program, "Warm up with a Good Book," off to a tasty start with a truffle-making demonstration. In April, we had Edward Leonard's Silly Songs Sing-Along and our popular Easter egg hunt. In May, our family book club read Shel Silverstein's *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. In June, we took a group of all ages

on our yearly adventure to BookCon, where our excited young readers had the opportunity to meet their favorite authors.

TEENS:

As another year comes to a close, we reflect upon this past year of teen activities. During the summer months, we made memories during our murder mystery "Psycho Circus," game nights, paint nights and concluded summer with our annual auction. As the school year began and our teens got busy with their studies, they still

made time to attend the regular Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meetings and monthly after hours activities. In early December, teens participated in the Children's Craft Fair by manning the

baked goods and hot dog special tables and many past TAB members returned to pitch in. Later that month, we held the teen 2018 end-of-year get together where we played games, shared appetizers and had our usual grab bag. As February and March rolled around, we began to plan our next summer reading program. The teens created a program concept then planned everything to pull it off - from activities to prizes. By the time June arrived, many of our teens were excited to participate in the program they had helped to create for summer 2019.

