



## Annual Report 2017

***“The Merrill Memorial Library is a public library that makes available to all members of the community a broad range of materials, services and information. The mission of the library is to provide our patrons with educational, recreational and cultural enrichment and opportunities for independent learning and for personal and professional growth. The library trustees and staff will support this mission by providing an environment that is welcoming, stimulating, respectful and supportive. “***

The Merrill Memorial Library did a brisk business in 2017, with consistent attendance at our legacy programs and growing attendance at several new programs. For adults we facilitated: 12 Readers’ Circle book group discussions; 24 Merrill Film Society classic films & discussions; 12 current release matinees; 3 author visits; 5 Poetry in the Library events; in partnership with Maine Humanities Council we presented three World in Your Library lectures – “Understanding Russia”, “Immigration in Western Europe and U.S.” and “Civil War in Syria”. We continue to offer weekly walk-in TECHSPRESSO individualized technology help, where this year library staff helped 235 residents with their own devices. We continue to host staff from Senator Angus King’s office in our lobby each month and have welcomed State Legislators Cathy Breen and Janice Cooper here for constituent Q&A. The Library was pleased to host the local Aging in Place ice-cream social where the Town of Yarmouth was recognized by AARP as an Age-Friendly Community.

In the Children’s Department, Library Staff continue to grow and adapt programs to meet changing community needs. A sampling of children’s programs includes: weekly baby/toddler/preschool storyhours; The Thinking Caps kids book group for ages 8-11; A Novel Bunch teen book group; After school programs in science, engineering and technology; Sock Hop Storytime; stuffed animal sleepover; CANS film festival (cans for food pantry); Community Leaders as guest Storytime readers – K9 Matrix drawing the biggest crowd. With financial support from Estabrook’s Garden Center, we established The ECO-KIDS Club. We enrolled 365 kids in our Summer Reading Program while also setting up a satellite program at Yarmouth Pointe and offering Science in the Park on Wednesdays. Our first ever Youth Advisory Board was recently formed to give young teens a voice in programs and services.

Our Art Gallery was used for 7 shows and receptions for local artists, including the Kismet Foundation’s Artist in Residence Adriane Herman.

As use of the print and audio/visual collections holds steady at about 112,000 items annually, library cardholders downloaded almost 2,500 e-books and audios from CloudLibrary. We borrowed 1,450 items interlibrary loan from libraries across the country.

The third floor meeting rooms were used 274 times by various entities from all walks of the community.

We loaned free passes to area museums and attractions to 156 families throughout the year.

Five of the Library staff attended the annual Maine Library Association conference in October. Two of the staff had conference planning responsibilities and three MML staff made presentations at the conference.

As the Route One over pass is demolished and rebuilt, we appreciate your patience getting in-and-out of our facility. We invite you to enjoy a bird's eye view of the project from our building any time.

Sincere thanks goes out to our terrific volunteers, Board of Trustees, elected officials and other municipal department employees – all of whom help us with various parts of Library operations every day. Any success that we enjoy is a direct result of this cooperative effort.

*We welcome your comments anytime.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Heidi Grimm, Library Director*

*Judy Clark, Asst. Director & Circulation Librarian*

*Nissa Flanagan, Network & Technical Services*

*Maegan Batson, Children's Librarian*

*Trudy Briggs, Adult Services*

*Jeff Eastman, Media & Technology*

*Maryallyn Dennison, Circulation & Adult Programs*

*Melissa Madigan, Youth Services*

