



Annual Report 2018

“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.”

We are pleased to report that 2018 marks yet another year of growth for MML. We continue to fine tune our existing framework of programs while also adding new programs in response to community input. In a word, 2018 was successful mostly due to COLLABORATION. In the Yarmouth community there are many successful businesses, non-profits and municipal entities working to deliver programs and services to our residents. By partnering up with several of these organizations, we were able to significantly increase our slate of programs and materials.

In the Children’s & Teen Departments, Library Staff focused on STEM and Environmental activities, dosed with a load of fun. A sampling of programs includes: baby/toddler/preschool story hours; Thinking Caps kids book group and The LitWits teen book group (with financial support from the Library Board of Trustees); Drive-In movie for toddlers; Tail Waggin Tales for emerging readers; The Eco-Kids Club (presented with financial support from Kennebec Savings); Stuffed Animal Sleepover; MINECRAFT Club; Book Arts; Harry Potter Birthday Party, Halloween Party and New Year’s Eve parties (sponsored by the MML Youth Advisory Board); Robotics and Coding (also sponsored by Library Trustees). We offered two sessions of Little Roots Music (in collaboration with 317 Main). The Children’s Room staff worked cooperatively with Yarmouth Community Services at the summer Lunch Crunch site, bringing Library materials and the Summer Reading Program directly to young participants. The same staff also visited or hosted all local schools, preschools and NYA. We ran our annual Summer Reading Program with 386 children participating in various activities at the Library and in the Royal River Park.

Adult programming continues to be varied and popular. Our Reader’s Circle group meets monthly, and we now co-host 3 non-fiction discussions/year in partnership with the Yarmouth Historical Society. Two of our monthly book discussions and two of our classic films were presented in concert with the annual Camden Conference. We also hosted the Kismet Foundation’s Artist in

Residence, Kim Diehnelt, for her presentation “The Composer’s Toolbox”. We continue to host weekly walk-in TECHSPRESSO for residents. Two Library Staff assist people for two hours every Tuesday afternoon, answering tech questions of all types. In 2018, 228 residents took advantage of this service. We continue to screen classic films in the evening twice a month, and current release motion pictures once a month as a matinee. Regular attendance has grown beyond our seating capacity, and now many films are ticketed at the door to control numbers. The two-part Audio Clips project was launched in 2018, where Library Staff record residents first recalling their own Yarmouth stories, and then participants are able to make a second recording of themselves reading a cherished children’s book or poem or other spoken piece of their choice. The recording of the reading is given to the participants to share with their family, and the local history recording is given to the Yarmouth Historical Society.

In 2018 two Library Staff completed individual Leadership Training programs; two staff attended and presented at the annual Maine Library Association Conference; several staff made presentations throughout the community for other organizations; and two staff sit on the executive board of the MLA. All staff are engaged in regular professional development offered live and via web conferencing provided by the Maine State Library.

Our biggest endeavor for the year was to re-barcode all of our materials, re-write all electronic records and prepare for the wholesale changeover of our operating software. We made the leap from being a stand-alone library to join a long-standing consortium of statewide MINERVA libraries with a shared catalog of over 6M items. This changeover was completed in early December with significant time set aside for staff training and ongoing patron training. Early results indicate that this new interface shortens wait time for popular items and gives patrons significantly increased access to materials of all kinds. This project was undertaken with hands-on help from a few trusted volunteers and financial support from the Board of Trustees.

The Library Art Committee managed six exhibits in our Gallery. Each show featured a local artist and provided them with an opportunity display and sell their work. One exhibiting artist gifted all proceeds to the Oncology Department at Mercy Hospital, where he was a patient at the time.

The Yarmouth Aging in Place volunteers met at the Library several times throughout the year and presented two programs featuring Atul Gawande’s work [Being Mortal](#).

A Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging contract representative meets with clients in the Library two days per week. This service is provided by the Town of Yarmouth, office space is provided by the Library. The SMAAA representative accepts appointments and walk-in clients who are Yarmouth residents.

AARP volunteers were on-site for several weeks in the spring providing free income tax preparation for low-income senior residents in the area. They were also in the Library for several sessions helping people sign up for Medicare.

We loaned Museum & Park Passes to families 151 times in 2018. Multiple Maine State Park Passes were given generously by the Royal River Conservation Trust, and all other passes are funded by the Library Board of Trustees.

The third floor meeting rooms were booked for over 400 meetings and events which include the AARP sessions mentioned above, ESL tutors, a Senior Daytime Book Group, author visits, Poetry in the Library, Classic Films, Daytime Matinees, several writing groups, college interviews, EcoMaine presentations, Portland Metro meetings, Yarmouth Arts Alliance meetings and events, several school and civic group meetings, PTO, RRCT, RRCP and many other groups.

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 we enjoy is a direct result of this cooperative effort.

We welcome your comments anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

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