



# Edgartown Public Library NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY

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2014

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[www.edgartownlibrary.org](http://www.edgartownlibrary.org)

508-627-4221

Dear patrons and friends of the library,

Recently, as a part of the Edgartown Library's strategic planning process, we revisited our library hours. Based on your collective input, we have made plans to extend our hours from 41 per week to 52, opening the library on Mondays, beginning in March.

Effective March 1, our new schedule will be as follows:

Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 10-6

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10-8

In other news below, we hope you'll note the launch of a new, biweekly Alzheimers support group, Memory Keepers, to be held on Friday evenings beginning on February 14. Looking further ahead: If you are a parent of a beginning reader, stay on the lookout for a weekly learn to read program to be held on Saturdays in March.

We hope you enjoy our second edition of the library newsletter. Programs are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. To donate to the Friends, [please click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support, and happy reading.

Warmly,

Jill Dugas Hughes  
Director





## **With \$7.3 Million Contract, Work Begins on New Library**

The construction phase of the new Edgartown Library project is about to begin. Representatives from Maron Construction of Rhode Island, which has a \$7.3 million contract now signed by all parties, will meet with town officials to discuss the project launch at a special session in the town hall selectmen's room at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11. In the weeks ahead the general contractor will install an office trailer at the site, and beginning on Feb. 18, the library building committee will also be shifting into construction mode, meeting regularly on the first and third Tuesdays of every month.

Carl Watt, who chairs the library building committee together with selectman Michael Donaroma, writes in a recent letter to his committee that this is a moment to celebrate: "Hard to believe we have been working together for 4 years this April, and we are now in the home stretch. Thank you all from Michael and myself for all of your hard work, patience and perseverance."



**Mural Project Nears Completion:**  
Have a loved one's favorite book title, or your own, celebrated, recorded, and displayed in the library entry way as part of this unique project.



Detail of new mural in Carnegie building hallway.

Noted Island muralist Margot Datz has created art in many of the Vineyard's public spaces. After months of heartfelt preparation by Ms. Datz, installation of a moveable mural project is underway. These panels are neatly fitted into the entrance hall of our 1904 Carnegie library and provide a transformative experience as you enter the library. This piece is representative of the transition underway, as we honor the past and plan for the future, with our new library. Special thanks to Courtney Brady for spearheading and securing funding for this project.

These panels convey the impression of bookshelves filled with favorite books and mementos from around the world -- it's tempting to wonder, as you enjoy all the colorful detail, what the stories behind these books and objects might be.

You may notice, that the book spines have no lettering. Soon, you will begin to see these books come alive with favorite book titles, commissioned by the community by making a gift of \$100 or more to the library's Above and Beyond Fund, which is administered by the library trustees. The Above and Beyond Fund was established to fund exciting "wow" items for the new Edgartown Library.

Collectively, we have the opportunity to raise \$10,000 for the new library and simultaneously create a true community piece of art. Honor someone special by commissioning a favorite title in their honor. To learn more about this exciting project, contact library director, Jill Dugas Hughes; [director@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:director@edgartownlibrary.org) or 508-627-4221



Donna Blackburn, at left, dispenses friendly advice.

## **Saturday Mornings: Learning to Knit**

Every Saturday morning at 10:30, for about an hour, a group of new knitters meets in our Children's Room for mutual support and for guidance from our staff's most skilled knitter, Donna Blackburn.

It's a friendly, easygoing group, and Ms. Blackburn says several of her new knitters are gaining skills and confidence rapidly. If you'd like to try your hand, there's no need to register in advance -- just bring your knitting materials to the library and jump right in.



## Winter Film Series Continues



The Music Makers, our eight-week Tuesday movie series, has been a popular hit, and has been snowed-out only once so far this season. Coming programs in the series are as follows.

Feb. 11: *Impromptu*

This romantic romp among the artists of 1830s France -- Chopin, Liszt, de Musset, Delacroix, and Sand -- has a witty screenplay, lively performances and lush soundtrack. Directed by James Lapine (UK and France, 1991).

Feb. 18: *Cadillac Records*

This film documents the story of Chess Records, Chicago home to Blues immortals Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and Etta James (portrayed in a knockout performance by Beyonce Knowles). Directed by Darnell Martin (US, 2008).

Feb. 25: *Look at Me*

An observant examination of friendship, ambition and betrayal in the French literary milieu, the story of a gifted young singer and her egocentric artist father is a bittersweet comedy with Chekhovian overtones; directed by Agnès Jaoui (France, 2004).

March 4: *Shine*

The story of Australian piano prodigy, David Helfgott, and his triumph over mental illness is told without cliché or sentimentality. Starring Geoffrey Rush in an Oscar-winning performance, and directed by Scott Hicks (Australia, 1996).

*Please note: This film series is for adults. Refreshments will be served.*



## Fine Amnesty Program Generates Donations For Island Food Pantry

This January and February, the Edgartown Library has been sending regular loads of donations to the Island Food Pantry, in a fine-amnesty program for our patrons. Please talk to us at the library desk about how you can clear your slate of overdue fines by bringing a contribution of nonperishable food to the library.



Another carload of donations.

Please note, this program applies only to late fees -- not to lost or damaged library items. The Food Pantry fills an essential Island need, so we hope you'll be generous.

[Download a list of Food Pantry items](#)

## Children's Room Programs for February Include Busy Schedule for Vacation Week



Biscuit's visit was welcomed with many hugs.

Our Children's Room has been busy this January. One of the highlights was a visit by the favorite children's book character, Biscuit the puppy, for a story hour on Jan. 25 -- several families got home

from that event to find pictures of their kids with Biscuit waiting in their email inboxes.

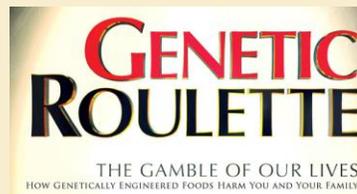
Highlights of February in the Children's Room include two afternoons of Valentine card-making on Feb. 7 and 8 -- and we've planned activities for every afternoon of our week during school vacation at the end of the month. Looking ahead, don't forget Mardi Gras, the library's traditional party for kids, on Saturday, March 1.

For a look at all our children's activities in February, visit [this link to our web page](#).



### **Slow Food MV Presents Film Screening at Library**

To support the Massachusetts GMO labeling initiative, and to raise public understanding of the issues around genetically modified foods, Slow Food MV is presenting a documentary film around the Island this February. The organization will screen the documentary, entitled Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives, here at the library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12.



A link with more information about this Slow Food MV initiative is [here](#).



### **Alzheimers Support Group Forms**

Elyce Bonnell of the Edgartown Library staff is reaching out to all Islanders whose lives are affected by a loved one with Alzheimers, inviting them to meet at the library for discussion and mutual support. She's offering to host this group here at the library at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, beginning on Feb. 14.

"There's no specific agenda here," Ms. Bonnell explains -- "I just discovered that the Island has no organized group for supporting people whose lives are touched by this disease. And I thought the library could be a good setting for people to meet and share their

experiences and concerns."

If you'd like to drop in on Feb. 14, please know that all are welcome. For more information, please call Ms. Bonnell during library hours at 508-627-4221.

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