

Report of the Director of the Lane Memorial Library

By the numbers

The full collection of the library at the end of 2017 totaled 75,159 titles. Over the course of the year 4,681 titles were added and 5,668 titles were removed. We had 11,271 registered patrons in 2017.

Circulated materials	190,398	(194,198 in 2016)
Visits	127,243	(127,299 in 2016)
Computer uses	16,404	(17,265 in 2016)
Reference questions	5,143	(4,758 in 2016)
Programs	471	(420 in 2016)
Program attendees	11,548	(9,678 in 2016)

General

It is safe to say that the staff of the Lane Memorial Library are book people. We wouldn't be without a book during a meal break, over a long weekend, or during almost any quiet moment. We serve the book minded people of Hampton, thousands of them, but they are not the only people we serve. The film buffs, music enthusiasts, museum hoppers, child care providers, techies, and technophobes of Hampton pass through our doors daily. We count ourselves among the very best libraries in NH and offer more than anyone who doesn't use the library would ever expect. We curate and offer tens of thousands of items for use, provide a warm and welcoming environment in a beautiful and historic building, and host hundreds of programs to enrich the lives of all Hampton residents.

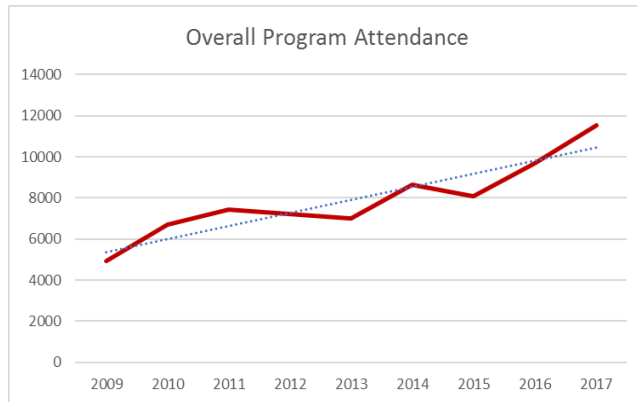
Building and Staff

After many years of careful and prudent planning that brought the infrastructure and appearance of the library up to date, in 2017 we consider most of the major work in these areas complete. The successful passage of the warrant article to bring more windows, and therefore more natural light into the Children's Room as well as an additional emergency egress, will address one of the remaining areas of concern. In 2017 we, therefore, assembled a community committee of Hampton residents and asked them what they would like to see their town become in the next decade. In response to these fascinating conversations we have created a strategic plan of appropriate goals that will guide the library for the next three years and help to usher in the vibrant Hampton envisioned in partnership with area businesses, other town offices, and residents.

As in any year the familiar faces that aid us in our endeavors changed and shifted in 2017. Stan Olson, the man who acquired every item we did not own ourselves, retired and we broadened the role that Kathleen Hall plays as the Public Services Assistant Librarian to include this crucial work. Donna Jardin and Kathy Faulkingham left the circulation desks for other satisfying work, that of full-time grandmother for Donna and local restaurateur for Kathy. We welcomed Lee Weatherby and Joan Maloney to the regular circulation staff; both women had previously worked as able substitutes.

Programs

We have nine years of complete data on the programs the library has hosted and the response from the community. In 2017 we hit an incredible milestone; we more than doubled the number of attendees to our programs from the beginning of our data in 2009 to the present. How we



accomplished this growth becomes apparent with the review of any recent annual library calendar. From Martin Luther King Day to New Year's Eve we present a steady march of programs. We offer book clubs and game clubs, storytimes, special events to mark the holidays and seasons, everyday events to get people out into their community, and drop-in events to catch people and engage them for a few moments. Hampton foodies, lifetime learners, and anyone who likes good, free

entertainment have stopped by for at least one event at the library. A few highlights from 2017 include: the *Dress a Girl Around the World* sew-a-thon, a local author talk with Mary Jane Begin, a touch-a-truck day, Storytimes by the Sea, teen ukulele and robotics camps, and a visit with Abraham Lincoln.

Friends and Volunteers

The Friends of the Lane Memorial Library are the underwriters to many of the best things the library has to offer, donating \$15,698 to the library in 2017. The entire Summer Reading Program, drawing in everyone from babies to grandfathers, is paid for by the Friends. The fabulous museum and area attraction passes, as well as the software to book these passes online, are generously provided to the Hampton community by the Friends. They are friends as everyone should have them; our best advocates, most vocal supporters, frequent visitors, and occasionally heavy lifters.

It is unusual in a library of our size to have critical functions performed by volunteers. It is, however, a testament to the Hampton community that we have been able to sustain this model for so many years. Our volunteers are dedicated to helping us as we help Hampton residents, donating over 1,581 hours of their time in 2017.

Respectfully, Amanda L. Reynolds Cooper M.S. L.I.S, Library Director



Fun during touch-a-truck, celebrating teen summer reading, and a ninja in the stacks