

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



TOGETHER
FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Nikki Maounis, whose background includes 10 years as a children's librarian, marks an enchanted National Library Week.

The magic of bringing people together The way a library should be

It is said that we in Maine live life the way it should be. To me, a big part of the way we live our "best" lives is having access to a good library. And at this moment in time, when access to learning and to information is even more vital, our libraries are more important than ever. It helps in life to have things that we can count on.

What I hear, from those all around me, is a longing for a place of connection in our

divided country. As a center of public life in Camden, your library provides that safe place to not only be heard, but also to listen to each other. Please join in as we at the Camden Public Library help to build community, preserve history, and nurture the life of the mind in this, our chosen spot on the coast of Maine.

Nikki Maounis
Executive Director



In 2019, the Camden Public Library was again recognized as a Five-Star Library - one of just 85 in the nation.* That's 11 straight years of being named a Star Library!

*America's Star Libraries,
Library Journal Index of
Public Library Service, 2019

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Executive Director

Financial Review

July 2018 - June 2019



Income

ANNUAL APPEAL and GRANTS	24%	\$229,485
PROGRAM AND BOOK REVENUE	15%	\$138,221
ENDOWMENT INCOME	13%	\$126,469
TOWN OF CAMDEN	48%	\$458,000
Total Income		\$952,175

Expenses

BOOKS, PROGRAMS, and OPERATING	\$199,055
FACILITY MAINTENANCE and IMPROVEMENTS	\$97,474
7-DAYS-A-WEEK PROFESSIONAL and SUPPORT STAFF	\$601,380
AMPHITHEATRE and HARBOR PARK	\$50,159
Total Expenses	\$948,068

Net **\$4,107**

Financial Reporting

The library follows procedures that ensure ongoing reviews of financial reporting during the fiscal year. The Finance Committee meets regularly to understand the details of the library's financial status. In addition, annual independent audits and reviews are performed to provide an outside examination of both the library's accounting procedures and the resulting financial reports.



A family poses on a bygone tree on Monhegan Island (1899) from the Theresa Parker Babb Collection of the Walsh History Center.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



We bring people together to read, connect, and discover. With 229,000 visits in 2019, the library remains an anchor for the community.

Children's Programs

The library continued five weekly story hours and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programs, offering more than 500 programs to nearly 9,500 participants, including Girls Who Code, Tinker Tuesdays, and Creative Art Afternoons. In March, our Children's Room transformed into a farm for kids to read, play, and explore. During "A Universe of Stories" Summer Reading Program, families discovered the sky in a Planetarium in the Reading Room. Monarch madness in the fall reared, tagged, and released 42 butterflies!

Adult Programs

The library engaged more than 18,000 adults with nearly 600 programs in 2019. Presentations ran the gamut of interests and featured writers, scientists, wellness experts, performers, and artists from the coast and beyond. Partnerships with organizations like the Camden Conference, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Midcoast Women, and the Camden Shakespeare Festival provided our community with intimate access to wide-ranging speakers and content.

Walsh History Center

The renovation of the Walsh History Center in 2019 refreshed the facilities while increasing storage capacity and usefulness. The work has led to ever increasing visits and requests for research, microfilm viewing, genealogical review, and as hoped, meeting space for community groups and business use, as well as work and study by individuals. Thanks to the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation and Davis Family Foundation for the charitable grants that made this transformation possible.

Historic parks receive grant

The library has been awarded a \$12,000 grant by the Belvedere Historical Preservation Fund of the Maine Community Foundation. With this support, work has begun to repair and refinish the wrought iron railings of the Fauns Garden outdoor double staircase. The brick piers that support the staircase will also be re-pointed.



(Top left) Miss Amy captures our local Maine Student Book Award (MSBA) group deep in conversation (and snacks!) The MSBA expands literary horizons of students, grades 4 to 8, by encouraging them to read, evaluate, and enjoy new books - and to choose a statewide favorite by ballot each spring. (Top right) During Jumpstart January's "Sew Your Own Tote Bag," a library member fashions her custom creation. (Above) KeyBank employee volunteers join Parks Director Dave Jackson in Camden Harbor Park for spring cleanup in May.

LIBRARY STORIES

Anonymous donor opens doors



A concerned community member discovered the struggle to fund an accessible door at the Atlantic Avenue entrance and made an anonymous donation to cover the cost. The automated door now makes the library even more welcoming

and beneficial to individuals as well as community groups, like the Camden Brain Injury Support Group, who meet monthly at the library.

“Improvements like this can make lives a lot easier,” said Youth Services Librarian Loraine Murray. “We have parents who come in holding an infant in one arm and pushing a stroller with the other.” One young library member learned how to press the button to help his mom, her arms loaded with books.



One woman makes extraordinary gift to the library's future



Vera J. Hill

“I have heard it said that if you wait long enough, people will surprise and impress you,” said Executive Director Nikki Maounis. That was certainly the case when

the library received notice of the profoundly generous bequest of more than \$100,000 by Vera J. Hill. “Wow!” Maounis added, “I wish I had known her and could thank her in person.”

Bequests of this size are extraordi-

narily rare and will make a significant, long-lasting impact.

The sweeping generosity of Vera Hill, who passed away in 2019 at age 92, is resonating across the Midcoast as churches, libraries, schools, and even an animal shelter will benefit from her considerate gifts. Hill worked for National Sea Products in Rockland and was active in the Episcopal Church in Camden and Rockland. She was laid to rest in Camden’s Seaview Cemetery.

She is remembered for “her cleverness and quick wit, her natural ability to listen and engage others in conversation, and her great sense of humor” in her obituary. Her legacy

is truly an example of how one person’s thoughtful philanthropy can make a radical difference in a community.

“In a town the size of Camden, a library is truly the center for public life,” Maounis said. “In our community, it’s the place you come to get something to read, meet a friend, learn about local history. It’s a hub and an anchor. So much happens here.”

The library has honored Vera Hill with a dedication engraved on one of the stones in the pathway leading to the library’s entrance: Vera Hill – Your Gift is Our Future.



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Library volunteers move mountains and sea!

Volunteers raised an astonishing **\$36,147 in book sales!**

That Herculean effort was part of the 3,211 hours that volunteers gave, from shelving to staffing Harbor Arts & Books.



(From left) Camden Firefighter Clint Beveridge engages a young library member in fire safety. "Finding Our Voices," an exhibit by Patrisha McLean, opens courageous conversations.

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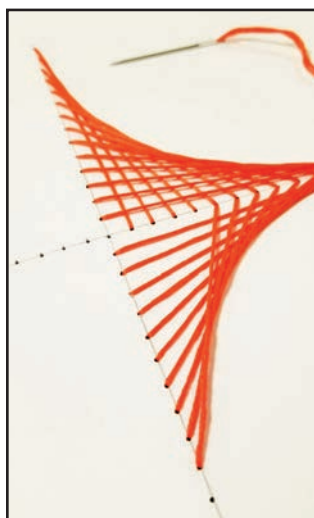
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(From top) Co-Chairs Susan Flynn and Dave Jackson announce the Campaign for the Future at the Walsh History Center Grand Re-Opening in April. Young tinkers combine parabolas to stitch stars during a Tinker Tuesday STEAM project.

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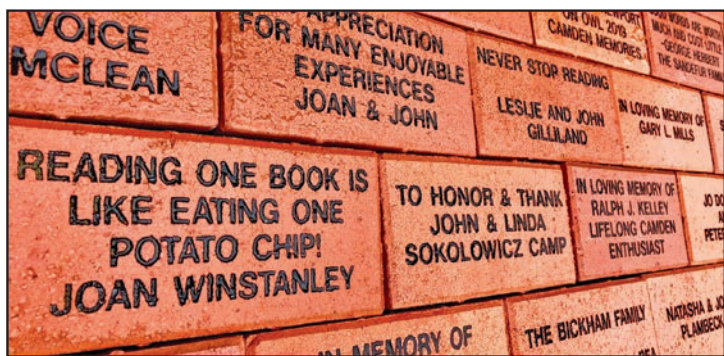
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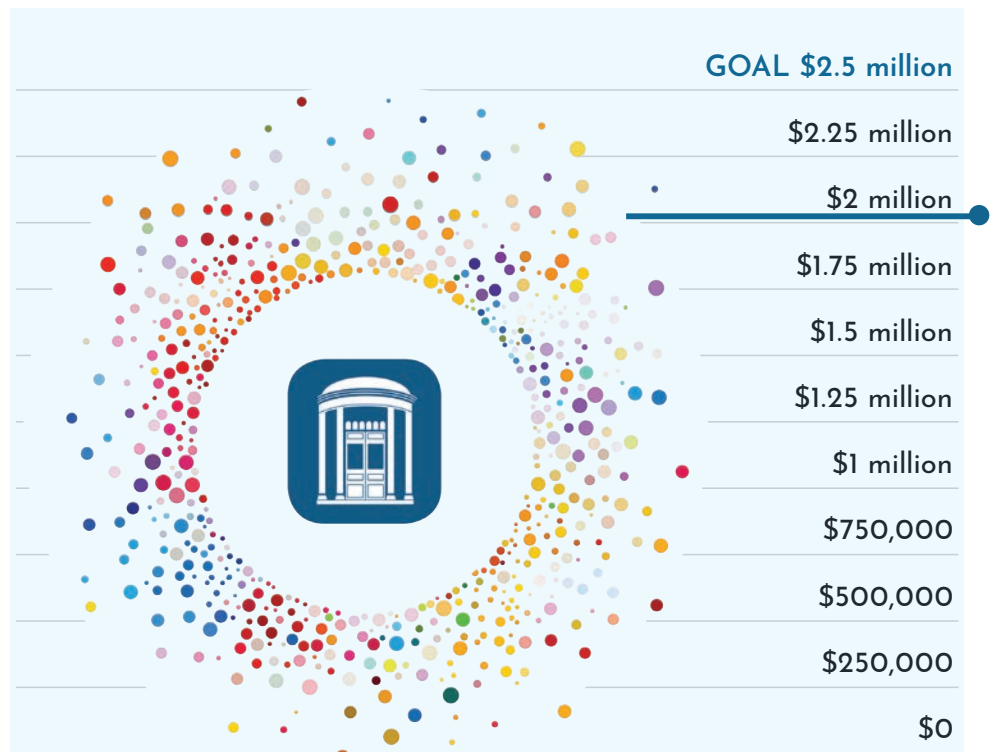
As of Feb. 1, 2020





Campaign for the Future kicks off during 2019 National Library Week

A week-long celebration of the library's future began with our first Edible Books Festival (top), featuring more than 20 teams competing for prizes. (Right) During Historic Building and Parks Day, sculptor Andreas von Huene describes his work to restore the 1930 front-steps message, "Erected by The United Effort and Generosity of the Community." (Above) Youth Services Librarian Amy Hand steps back to 1930 to join Mary Louise Curtis Bok, as re-enacted by Library Trustee Marti Wolfe, at the Walsh History Center Grand Re-Opening.



Look how far we are today!

80%

Less than \$500,000
to go to secure the future of
the Camden Public Library



Camden Public Library

55 Main Street
Camden, ME 04843
(207) 236-3440

librarycamden.org

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*Assistant Director/Director
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