



In 2022, your library was named the **only Five-Star Library in Maine!** Based on 2020 data, the rankings were the first to include COVID-19's impact on programs and services. This honor places the CPL among the nation's top 85 libraries and marks its 15th straight year as a Star Library.

Conjuring everyday library magic

One of the best parts of my morning is the moment when the library doors first swing open and the people of our town stroll through the entrance. The library instantly lights up as a gathering place where all are welcome - no matter their age, beliefs, or situation. Here, the everyday magic of serving important human needs is a constant. Here's what I mean:

- As parents and toddlers arrive for Story Time, a lasting friendship with the written word – and the stories we all share – begins.
- Amid the quiet of the Reading Room, a lifelong learner opens a laptop and begins typing the memoir she has always wanted to write.
- Our Homebound Delivery librarian visits with an avid reader who shares how valuable reading is to his quality of life, strengthening a vital social connection.

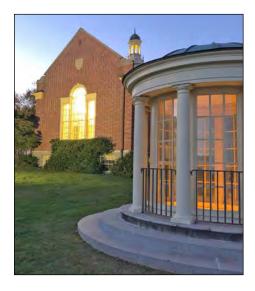
• Later in the day, middle-schoolers burst in to choose the books that define their interests before retreating into the library's warmth and safety.

On a daily basis, we strive to meet our neighbors' needs, offering vigorous adult and children's learning opportunities, free streaming films, guided access to historical resources, and one-on-one career help – to name a few.

Our Five-Star library remains a constant for our community – an anchor that reliably serves in a time of so much change, and it will continue to keep the light alive for the generations to come.



Nikki Maounis Executive Director



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Nikki Maounis Executive Director

Ken Gross Assistant Director/ History Center

Cover: In the fall, a replica made entirely of LEGO by local artist Colby Adolphsen spontaneously appears in the library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT





(Top) Detail of Colby Adolphsen's LEGO library replica, Atlantic Avenue entrance. (Bottom) A local student shelters in focus and quiet study in a favorite hidden nook of the Children's section.

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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

INCOME

ANNUAL APPEAL and GRANTS	\$317,204
PROGRAM and BOOK REVENUE	\$92,374
	\$139,974
TOWN of CAMDEN	\$493,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,042,552

EXPENSES

NET	\$7,829
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,034,723
AMPHITHEATRE and HARBOR PARK	\$63,221
PROFESSIONAL and SUPPORT STAFF	\$689,484
FACILITY MAINTENANCE and IMPROVEMENT	S \$114,573
BOOKS, PROGRAMS, and OPERATING	\$167,445



Patrisha McLean hangs the Finding Our Voices exhibit, "14 to 41: Three Years Later" in the Jean Picker Room.

Notable Programs

Maine Maritime Museum's "Cotton Town: Maine's Economic Connection to Slavery"

"Camden Native Plant Celebration and Sale," a Wild Seed Project Member-Hosted Event (top right)

Coastal Mountains Land Trust Series: "The Lime Coast – Geology of Midcoast Maine's Lime Industry"

Finding Our Voices "14 to 41: Three Years Later" Survivors Speak Panel and Exhibit (above)

The Camden Rotary Presents: "Music by the Sea," a 4th of July Concert

The everyday magic of connecting

Adult, Children's programs fuel a memorable impact in 2022



2022 PROGRAMS

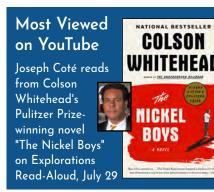
1,230 Up 130 over pre-pandemic 2019

ATTENDANCE - IN-PERSON

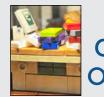
19,478 Nearly doubled for second year in a row

ATTENDANCE - ONLINE

221,895* Up 171,590 from 2021



9,300 people subscribe to our newsletters, including 7,747 to the Library Underground



Most Checked-Out Books

- Hatchet Island Maine's own Paul Doiron
- 2. The Midcoast Damariscotta native Adam White
- 3. The Madness of Crowds Louise Penny
- 4. Give Unto Others Donna Leon
- 5. The Lincoln Highway Amor Towles

Camden leads all Maine public libraries in YouTube subscribers



YouTube Subscribers

1. Camden Public Library 2. Portland Public Library

- 3. McArthur Public Library
- 5. Meximum ubic Elbra



Portland Public Library
Bangor Public Library
Camden Public Library



Instagram Followers

1. Portland Public Library

- 2. Bangor Public Library
- 3. Camden Public Library

Did You Know: These rankings do not include Miss Amy's separate children's-specific channels, YouTube's @MissAmyHand and Instagram's @miss_amy_h and their avid devotees.



PROGRAMS and SERVICES

YAY!

2022's more than

library visits were

up 30%

from 2021

166,00

Things are feeling more like pre-COVID times every day. We started increasing our in-person indoor programs as we consistently saw more families in the library! We continue to provide online videos of crafts, book recommendations, and STEM programs. If someone is sick at home, families e-mail us, and books are gathered and put at curbside. We offer programs inside and out, taking advantage of our beautiful library grounds.

-Miss Amy



Miss Amy's Dinovember craft and book-pairing video on how to make a handprint Stegosaurus dino-soars on YouTube.





Top Youth Books

• **Picture Book:** King Hugo's Huge Ego, Chris Van Dusen



- Beginning Reader: Eye of the Earthquake Dragon, Tracey West
- Middle-Grade Fiction: Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal, Jeff Kinney
- Juvenile Non-Fiction: Pokemon Super Deluxe Essential Handbook, Scholastic
- Young Adult: The Book Thief, Markus Zusak, and The Girl From the Sea, Molly Knox Ostertag (tie)



(Clockwise from middle left) "Going to the Library" is one of many folding books on display. With his art filling the Jean Picker Room, author/illustrator Jim Arnosky joins groups from Camden-Rockport Elementary School and Children's House Montessori School in one of 2022's first inside, in-person programs for kids. We were thrilled to bring back our annual outside Harry Potter Party after several COVIDaffected years off.

WALSH HISTORY CENTER

Quite a Catch: Camden Herald Archives

Our goal is to offer the richness of history available to everyone is immense. Researchers,

Watch the "Discover

History Month Series:

N.C. Fletcher's Camden

of 1884" on the CPL

through the most immediate media of the day. This historic newspaper offers a rare, intimate glimpse into everyday life decades ago. The impact of making this record historians, students, and educators, at any grade level or degree level, will benefit.

Appr **Programs YouTube** FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRES-ENT TIME-BY N. C. FLETCHER. Channel wh In compilie inte Introductory. To the Editors of the Opinion : After due astate must occur to the riod as well as the most stupid reader, that many reflection upon the subject, which has so long been the topic of conversation in our her obstructions will hedge up his pathway. He will meet with many difficulties not Bar leisure momen's in your sanctum, I have rethe easily removed and discouragements will Inetantly yielded to your solicitations to write a series of articles for the Opinion en-1609 attend the compiler, at every step he takes inte

N.C. Fletcher: Eyewitness to Camden history

THE

FRO

The Walsh History Center produces an annual exhibit in the library's Jean Picker Room. This year's exhibit and history talk were on Camden's own N.C. Fletcher. Fletcher was a Universalist minister who preached all over the Midcoast for three decades in the early 1800s. He became a businessman in 1854,

THE ANNALS OF THE TOWN OF CAMDEN, ME.

More than

years of the

Camden Herald is

now searchable

online

starting in the lime industry and settling into being a pharmacist for the remainder of his career. He also served in the state legislature and on the Governor's Council. He knew everyone worth knowing and wrote an eyewitness history of Camden in 1883 and 1884.

- Ken Gross

We had another busy year in the Walsh History Center. Inquiries about house histories continue to lead the list of research requests. We are immensely aided in any kind of research by the Camden Herald Archives that the library finished posting in 2022, thanks to a Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation grant and private donations. We now update the Camden Herald Archives annually with scans of the current year. - Ken Gross



Notable Research Requests

- Lok Marina
- Marion Village
- Camden Anchor Works
- Curtis Island Lighthouse
- Ledgers and "Daybooks" of Camden business people
- Meduncook Plantation Vital Records of Friendship, Maine
- Fort Pine Hill
- Ship S.D. Carleton
- Camden Community • Hospital
- Theresa Parker Babb Photo Collection
- Wilder Washington ("W.W.") Perry
- **Bok Collection**
- 1937 Tax Photo Collection
- Yearbooks
- Green Gables Inn
- And much more!

PARKS





Constantly unfolding beauty of historic parks attracts scores of citizens



In 2022, the Camden Amphitheatre and Harbor Park were busier than ever with events for the public to enjoy. They started with Winterfest in February, featuring ice carving, a doggy fashion show, and a polar plunge, then came a concert by the Midcoast Community Chorus in May. Shakespeare performances throughout the summer numbered 17, and we hosted 18 weddings, May through October.

Other events included engaging performances by the P2P Dance Center, Downeast Singers, Bay Winds North Wind Ensemble, and Mondaynite Jazz Orchestra. Also on the list were the Maine Outdoor Film Festival; the Camden Rotary Club Fourth of July Concerts; Miss Amy's Story Time; and morning Yoga and Tai Chi classes.

For the first time in three years, the Camden Amphitheatre and Harbor Park were filled with arts and crafts enthusiasts visiting vendors for Harbor Arts & Books in June and October.

The Amphitheatre and library grounds were a stop on the Camden Garden Club annual garden tour in July. Guests were guided around the parks, once in the morning and again in the afternoon.

The Bay Chamber Screen Door Festival featured three to five concerts a day during five days and was well attended.

Special events included Camden on Canvas, the Stewardship Educational Alliance's Environmental Fair (S.E.A.), the Gay Parade in June, plus a Native Plant Sale in September.

– Dave Jackson



MILLAY SOCIETY | The small group that makes a big difference

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In honor of Edna St. Vincent Millay's February 22 birthday, artist Ken Hendricksen created this tribute and displayed it for viewing in the library's Reading Room.

Joel, Kelly, Jay, and Karl Hokkanen Sue Hopkins and Bob Carter, in loving memory of Norm Shaddick* W. Avery Jenkins Patricia and Rendle Iones Jim and Catherine Kinsella Katie and Andy Klaber Elinor Klivans Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Lane Nancy Lannamann Laite and Parker Laite, Jr., in memory of Bob and Barbara Lannamann* James R. Lannamann, in honor of Robert and Barbara Lannamann* John and Carole Lannamann, in memory of Bob and Barbara Lannamann* Vanessa and Dan Lannamann, in memory of Barbara Lannamann* Alan and Carol Larson Traci and Mark Lerner Kerr and William E. Low Drew and Mackenzie Lyman, Lyman-Morse Rosalee and David McCullough* Dennis and Judy McGuirk Patrisha McLean Carlos and Terry Mello Leslye and Robert Menerey Joseph D. Messler, Jr. Pat Messler Audrey and Roger Moody Frederick and Georgene Moon leannie Murphy Gayle and David Noble Colin Page

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ANNUAL FUND



Dancers from P2P Dance Center, home of Atlantic Ballet Company, interpret the fairy-tale lives of five princesses in "The Enchanted Storybook," a free jazz-ballet program in the Camden Amphitheatre.

Anonymous (14) Anonymous Facebook Donors (21) Anonymous, in honor of Miss Amy by Freda and Jake Zwass Anonymous, in memory of Kathleen Morgan* Anonymous, in memory of Alice Rowe* Anonymous, in honor of Martha Wolfe A Friend, in honor of Susan Meade Fitzaerald Dana Abbott Tyler Abbott and Kelly Murphy Penny and David Abrams, in memory of Benje Mazur* Brittany Acciavatti, in honor of Catherine Murphy Jane and James Adams Kevin Adams After the Fall Farm Tim and Deena Andersen Andrew and Maria Aprill Marie Avren, in honor of Natasha the Dog Karen A. Backman Edward and Allison Ballo Linda Bates Denis and Joyce Beaudoin Pat and Cindy Behling Molly Stone and William Behrens loel Benedict lames Bennett Rebecca S. Bense Taylor Benzie

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With the Amphitheatre transformed into the magical Forest of Arden, the Camden Shakespeare Festival delivers a groovy 1960s version of "As You Like It."

ANNUAL FUND



The library has weathered the pandemic with the strength of volunteers. In 2022, 65 volunteers gave 2,130 hours. This work included doubling book-sale fundraising to \$46,076!

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Art lovers welcome the return of Summer and Fall Harbor Arts & Books, supported by the Reny Charitable Foundation.

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See Campaign for the Future sponsors, p. 13

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Camden on Canvas grew in its second year, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of attendees, business sponsors, and a powerful group of volunteers. In all, \$66,147 was raised to benefit the Campaign for the Future.





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