



CAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Cassie Sano, 2024.





A LIFETIME OF STORIES



If you love reading as much as I do, you might have heard of the podcast "What Should I Read Next" with Anne Bogel. On a recent episode, one of Anne's guests described a bookmark she had designed to be handed out at her funeral--a Top Ten Titles of My Life bookmark. A little grim, but it did get me thinking: "Which titles would I put on that list?" Could I narrow it down to just ten? What an impossible task!

Well, here is my list for today, knowing that tomorrow the selection may be completely different, because, as Heraclitus said, "No (wo)man steps in the same river twice":

1. **Life After Life** by Kate Atkinson
2. **The Last Cuentista** by Donna Barba Higuera
3. **Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded** by Simon Winchester
4. **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott
5. **The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexander Dumas
6. **Blankets** by Craig Thompson
7. **Losing My Religion** by William Lobdell
8. **The Devil in the White City** by Erik Larson
9. **Unbroken** by Laura Hillenbrand
10. **A Room of One's Own** by Virginia Woolf

What would be on your list? What books have changed your life? Be they fiction or non-fiction, adult, teen or kids' titles, we have them here for you at the Camden Public Library, and we love hearing what titles are impacting you and shaping your life.

Thank you for sharing a lifetime of stories with us and, as we look back on this fiscal year, please know that you help make the library the Heart of our Community.

KRISTY KILFOYLE

Executive Director

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024

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.

INCOME

ANNUAL APPEAL and GRANTS	\$391,490
PROGRAM and BOOK REVENUE	\$123,490
ENDOWMENT INCOME	\$127,437
TOWN of CAMDEN	\$555,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,197,417

EXPENSES

BOOKS, PROGRAMS, and OPERATING	\$193,719
FACILITY MAINTENANCE and IMPROVEMENTS	\$156,385
PROFESSIONAL and SUPPORT STAFF	\$766,345
AMPHITHEATRE and HARBOR PARK	\$71,161
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,187,610

NET **\$9,807**

A WEEK IN LIBRARY LIFE

Open 7 days a week, 56 hours | 16 staff members, equal to 10.5 full-time employees
11,600 items checked out monthly, on average

SUNDAY

- Open 1 to 5 p.m., it's one of our busiest days per hour with heavy use by families
- 152 individuals served on average
- Occasional afternoon programs



MONDAY

- Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Monday Morning Book Club
- WordCraft Initiative Writing Group
- Tai Chi in the Amphitheatre
- 331 people served on average with about 191 items checked out

TUESDAY

- Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.*
- Seaside Village Preschool remote school visits
- Yoga in the Amphitheatre (seasonal)
- Book sale donation day
- History Center weekly Zoom hour
- Spanish club meets
- PAWSitive Reading with Angus the Golden Retriever
- Philosophical Society meets
- Evening program (afternoon in winter)
- 433 people served on average

*2025: Winter Tuesdays to 6 p.m. All Saturdays to 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Book Time for Babies - average 40 attend
- Giving Tree Learning Center remote school visits
- Art and Journaling group meets
- Camden Nursing Circle meets
- Camden Climate Conversation group meets**
- 385 people served on average

THURSDAY

- Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Story Time for preschoolers
- Tai Chi in the Amphitheatre
- Yoga Nidra in the Amphitheatre (seasonal)
- Camden Climate Conversation group meets**
- Creative Art Afternoons
- Songwriter Sessions
- Evening program
- 417 people served on average

FRIDAY

- Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Yoga in the Amphitheatre (seasonal)
- Story Time for preschoolers
- Explorations Read Aloud on YouTube
- Chess Club
- Walking Tours of Camden, June-Sept.
- 417 people served on average

SATURDAY

- Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*
- Saturday Morning Story Time with Stef
- Picker Room Art Gallery reception, monthly
- Occasional afternoon programs
- 444 people served on average

**Program structure changed in 2025.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

2024 brought a renewed focus on crafting a collection for library patrons that is inspiring, relevant, and diverse. The library added more than 2,000 items during the year across all collections. By analyzing the use of our current holdings, we were able to make thoughtful acquisitions with a particular focus on filling in gaps related to certain topics and viewpoints, and acquiring more current resources on constantly evolving topics, such as technology and politics. We've placed a major focus on books across genres that bring diverse voices to the forefront. One highlight has been the addition of resources providing insight into the Indigenous experience. With displays featuring everything from baseball to kindness, there are always new and exciting discoveries on the shelves. But for those wishing to leave the library with a tried-and-true book in hand, the library has recently purchased many beautiful new editions of classic novels so that our patrons only bring the very best home with them.

- NORA CURRY



CELEBRATING UNIQUE VOICES

Fiction

1. **Colored Television**, Danzy Senna
2. **Somewhere Beyond the Sea**, TJ Klune
3. **The Lion Women of Tehran**, Marjan Kamali

Biography

1. **We Will Be Jaguars: a memoir of my people**, Nemonte Nenquimo
2. **Thinning Blood: an indigenous memoir of family, myth, and identity**, Leah Myers
3. **Frighten the Horses: a memoir**, Oliver Radclyffe

Nonfiction

1. **By the Fire We Carry: the generations-long fight for justice on Native land**, Rebecca Nagle
2. **This is the Honey: an anthology of contemporary Black poets**, ed. Kwame Alexander
3. **The Indian Card: who gets to be Native in America**, Carrie Lowery Schuett

ADULT PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

- JULIA SAGASER



"Surviving Disaster with Knitting in Hand" with Anna Zilboorg, author of **Knitting for Anarchists**, set a new attendance record for an in-person-only indoor program.

Other Popular Programs

1

"Camden Harp Celebration Concert: A Tribute to the Salzedo Harp Colony" in the Amphitheatre (see top right)

2

Jan Brett's "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" (see top of page 7)

3

"Peterborough & African Americans in Midcoast Maine, 1776-1865" with Kate McMahon

4

"All About Screech Owls" with Jim Wright, in partnership with MidCoast Audubon

5

"My Father Was a Spy" with Les Fossel, Jr., in collaboration with Camden Conference



In-Person Program Attendance
25,382 - Up 23% from 2023

Library Visits
130,208 - Up 2% from 2023

The number of 2024 Adult Programs was up

30%

to 505 vs. 387 in 2023

Top Fiction, Adults

1. **The Spy Coast** by Tess Gerritsen
2. **Dead Man's Wake** by Paul Doiron
3. **The Women** by Kristin Hannah
4. **The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon
5. **James** by Percival Everett

Top Non-Fiction, Adults

1. **The Demon of Unrest** by Erik Larson
2. **The Wide Wide Sea** by Hampton Sides
3. **Big Heart Little Stove** by Erin French
4. **Maine, a love story** by Blue Butterfield
5. **The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt



The library's YouTube channel has reached more than **2,000 subscribers** - No. 1 in the state for most subscribers to a public library YouTube Channel. Videos have earned more than **250,000 views**.



300

people packed the
Camden Opera House
for Jan Brett's sold-out
November
event



Jan Brett's "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" program was held in partnership with the Camden Opera House and Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop.



MOST CHECKED OUT YOUTH BOOKS

- **Young Adult (Tie)**
The Assassin's Blade by Sarah J. Maas
Crooked Kingdom by Leigh Bardugo
- **Easy Reader**
Dear Unicorn by Josh Funk
- **Juvenile - Fiction**
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J. K. Rowling
- **Juvenile - Non-Fiction**
International Wildlife Encyclopedia by Maurice Burton and Robert Burton
- **Beginning Reader**
Clifford the Big Red Dog: Phonics Fun Reading Program, Pack 1 by Wiley Blevins

A STEADY FOCUS ON YOUTH

In 2024, we were so excited to bring back a Saturday Story Time offering with Miss Stefanie on first and third Saturdays for families. We continue to add great literature to our collection, representative and welcoming for all to find just the right book for themselves. We continue to offer outreach library programs for local schools, both private and public, as well as YouTube and Instagram booktalks, book extensions, and creative how to's. We are also excited to continue and expand our offerings for youth and their families.

2024
Juvenile
program in-person
attendance rose
30%
to 7,285

- AMY "MISS AMY" HAND



NEWS FROM THE WALSH HISTORY CENTER

My name is Wyatt Porter, and I became the Walsh History Center Coordinator in March of 2024. I have been a lifelong resident of the Midcoast and a passionate history buff as far back as I can remember. I graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2015 with a degree in History and have been working at the library since 2018. Ken Gross' retirement after 20 years at the library left some very big shoes to fill, and I feel honored to be entrusted with the stewardship of such an excellent collection of local history.

The diorama of Camden Harbor ca. 1920 remains the reigning champion of reasons to visit the Walsh History Center, with more than 200 people visiting for that purpose.

As part of their exhibit "Magwintegwak: A Legacy of Penobscot Basketry," Farnsworth Museum curators digitized and featured a recorded interview with Penobscot artisan basketmaker Robert Anderson from our collection.

Notable Research Requests

- Yacht club historical planting list
- Native American place names in this area
- Saint Thomas parish centennial celebration
- The etymology of Eaton Avenue
- Dredging of the Camden Harbor
- Schools in the Camden area, ca. 1860
- Penobscot artist Robert Anderson's oral history
- Edna St. Vincent Millay Scrapbooks



The Walsh History Center collection supported key research on Penobscot artisan Robert Anderson. Photo courtesy of Mark Wallack (2007).

Anonymous
Anonymous, in honor of Nikki
Maounis and Ken Gross
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John Cummings
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Ronald and Franziska Hart
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Sue Hopkins and Bob Carter



Research requests to the Walsh History Center included interest in the Edna St. Vincent Millay Scrapbooks.

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*In Memoriam

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Winterfest, with lead support from First National Bank, provides a creative way for the community to gather during the colder weather. Activities include ice carving, a doggy fashion show, and a polar plunge.

Anonymous (7)	Debbie Eakin Boshart
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In 2024, 57 volunteers, including many Millay Society members, donated 2,041 hours of their time for the library. An essential part of the volunteer effort was raising \$31,187 in used book sales.

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A gratitude-filled retirement celebration for long-time Assistant Director Ken Gross lit up the Reading Room in February. Executive Director Nikki Maounis also retired after 16 years of CPL service in 2024. *Credit: Kim Palermo.*

Mary McCloud-Reid, in honor of Gigi
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The 2024 Summer and Fall Harbor Arts & Books fairs, sponsored by the Reny Charitable Foundation, brought people of all ages to downtown Camden for an art-filled weekend.

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Camden on Canvas proceeds totaled \$37,993 to support the library's future.



Volunteers from First National Bank bring warmth to Winterfest.

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SAVE
THE DATES

ART IN THE
STACKS



Painting in center: *Afternoon Blueberries* by Colin Page



ART *in the* STACKS

AN ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT
THE CAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sunday, July 20 - Sunday, Aug. 3
More than 20 artists' works available for bidding

Edward Jones

Ken Gardiner - Camden, Maine

Art in the Stacks news will follow at librarycamden.org



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