



Camden
PUBLIC LIBRARY

INSIDE
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Camden on Canvas
August 23, 2026



Colin Page (2025)

2025
ANNUAL REPORT





CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF DEVOTION TO OUR PARKS



We dedicate this Annual Report to retiring Parks Director Dave Jackson, who has devoted nearly a quarter-century of his life to shaping the beauty, spirit, and legacy of the library grounds. One of his greatest achievements was helping secure National Historic Landmark status for the Amphitheatre and Library in 2013 (at left). At the time, he called it "a dream come true." *So are you, Dave.* ♥



ENGAGING MINDS, ENRICHING LIVES



DEAR READER,

World-renowned expert in cognitive neuroscience Maryanne Wolf has spent over 40 years researching how reading affects the brain. I highly encourage you to read her book *Reader, Come Home*. In it, she discusses how mirror neurons play a significant role in the reading experience. When a character jumps, "the same neurons you deploy when you move your legs and trunk" are activated. But it isn't just physically that our minds match a text. Wolf notes that "while reading, we can leave our own consciousness, and pass over into the consciousness of another person, another age, another culture." John Donne also used this term "'passing over,' ... which enables us to try on, identify with, and ultimately enter for a brief time the

wholly different perspective of another person's consciousness."

Talk about a gift! It's why the loss of E.B. White's Charlotte impacts us so deeply. Why the blood boils when reading *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Why our hearts race while reading about the *Titanic* or the *Endurance*. The written word comes alive in our bodies.

Your support for the library allows us to continue the work of connecting readers to themselves, each other, and the broader community. We don't take it for granted. Whether you've donated or given of your time and talents, we appreciate you!

KRISTY KILFOYLE

Executive Director



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Year ending
Dec. 31, 2025

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YOUTH



TOP YOUTH BOOKS

Young Adult

A Court of Wings and Ruin,
Sarah J. Maas

Juvenile Fiction

Four-way tie:
The Last Straw,
The Ugly Truth,
Double Down,
and Hot Mess,
Jeff Kinney

Juvenile Nonfiction

Elements,
Brian Knapp

Easy Reader

The Teeny-Weeny Unicorn,
Shawn Harris

Beginning Reader

Tie: Let's Go for a Drive! Mo Willems and The Lost Princess, Debbie Dadey



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, we introduced two week-long, everyday summer reading camps – a free option that filled a need for families. We took kids "around the world," visiting five countries! We got our passports stamped and extended learning with activities, stories, and crafts. We also added other summer programs for the general public.

Inside the library, we increased engagement by updating our non-fiction collection and adding dynamic shelving. Out in the community, we connected with five schools and more home-school families. As the Knox County host of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we reached 600-plus kids, ages 0–5, with donor-funded monthly books.



Art Walk

594,769

Youth-program views increased more than 300% (141,754 views in 2024).

374

Number of youth virtual programs were up nearly 150% (150 in 2024).



TOP FICTION ADULT TITLES

1. *The Summer Guests*, Tess Gerritsen
2. *The Grey Wolf*, Louise Penny
3. *James*, Percival Everett
4. *The Cliffs*, J. Courtney Sullivan
5. *Time of the Child*, Niall Williams

TOP NON-FICTION ADULT TITLES

1. *Mother, Nature*, Jedidiah Jenkins
2. *The Friday Afternoon Club*, Griffin Dunne
3. *Be Ready When the Luck Happens*, Ina Garten
4. *The Paris Girl*, Francelle Bradford White
5. *Chasing Beauty*, Natalie Dykstra

ADULTS



POPULAR PROGRAMS

"Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner,"
Natalie Dykstra

"The Doctrine of Discovery from an Indigenous Perspective,"
Dwayne Tomah

"Lost and Found: Sounds of the Maine Coast,"
Sound Artist Dianne Ballon

"Propaganda Girls,"
Lisa Rogak

"Bringing Turtles Out of Their Shells,"
Pam Meier and real turtles

140,103

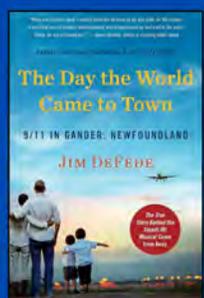
Total Library visits (up 7.6%)

2025's most attended programs included the 22nd Annual Camden Winterfest; Camden Native Plant Sale, in partnership with Wild Ones Midcoast Maine (above); Maine Outdoor Film Festival Selects Tour; Hildaland Concert in the Amphitheatre; and Foraging for Wild Mushrooms with Greg Marley.

Explorations Read-Aloud



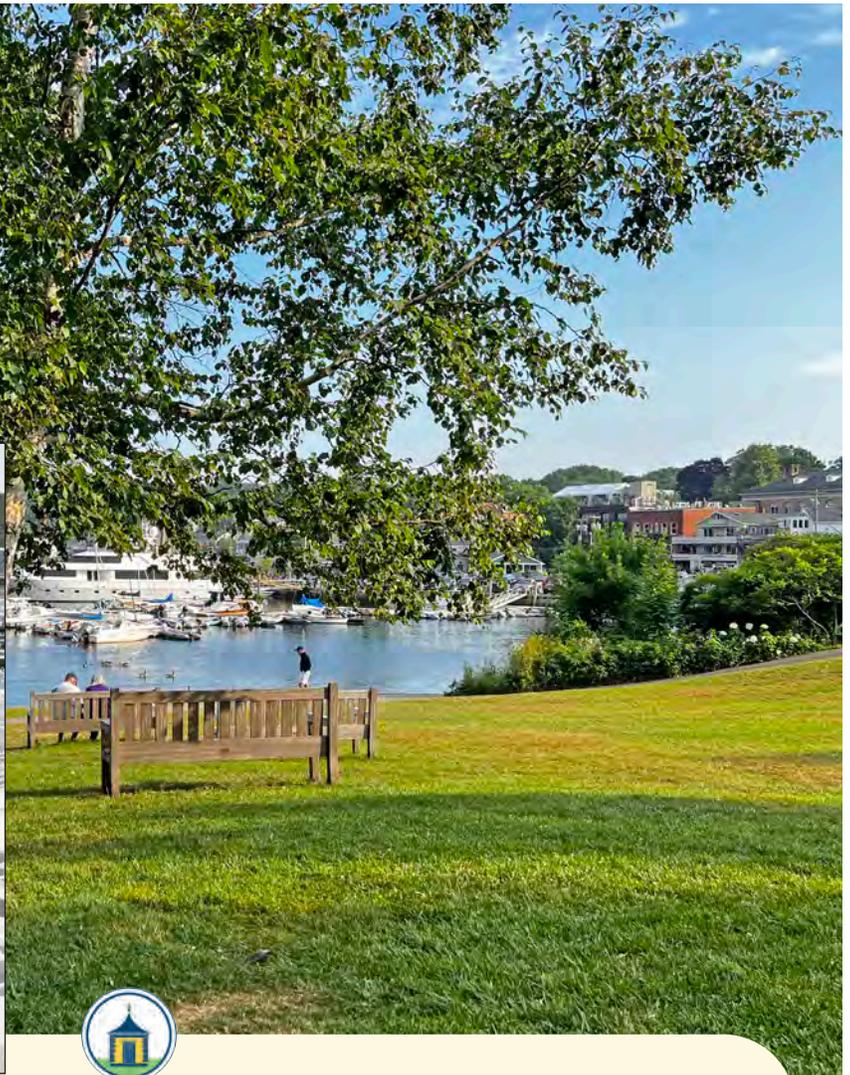
With Joseph Coté



274

Happy Five-Year Anniversary to Joseph Coté! With viewers from Camden to South Africa, he has led 274 Friday "Explorations Read Aloud" – and counting.

PARKS



WELCOME, HENRY

Henry Sweets is thrilled to join the Camden Public Library as the new Parks Director. He brings his passion for native plants and historic preservation along with him.

Henry has spent the last six years designing, building, and maintaining landscapes in the Midcoast. Previously, he created and managed a farm and park called North Brooklyn Farms on the East River in Brooklyn, NY, for seven years.

Henry enjoys hiking and skiing with his

family, foraging for wild and historic apple varieties, and mineral collecting and gem hunting in quarries around the state.

Retiring Parks Director Dave Jackson left a legacy of stewardship and community engagement that Henry hopes to carry on. He is honored to be in the same position as someone who is so well-loved by the community, and he is excited to take on the responsibility of maintaining and perpetuating the greatest treasury of historically significant landscapes in Maine.

Parks Director Henry Sweets shovels a path for the Winterfest Polar Plunge.



A grant from the Will Murphy Memorial Fund of the Maine Community Foundation allowed for significant all-genre acquisitions spanning the LGBTQIA+ spectrum. Another donor supported the addition of books about the Constitution and First Amendment rights, just in time for America's 250th anniversary.



NEW ON THE SHELVES

2025 was a year of thoughtful change for the library collection. In response to patron feedback, the entire staff pitched in to reorganize our adult nonfiction section according to the Dewey Decimal System and create a better searching and browsing experience. Transformations included an expanded large print area, a new oversize section, and revitalization of

the youth collection. Our librarians also broadened the collection by launching the new Camden Seed Library, filled with seeds from local growers and plant nurseries.

Whether it's a book, a Frisbee, or the chance to watch a lupine grow from seed, it can be found at the Camden Public Library.

During 2025, we added more than 100 titles to our CloudLibrary digital ebook/audiobook collection, an increase of almost 25%.

COLLECTION



HISTORY FOR THE DISCOVERING

2025 was a busy year for the Walsh History Center, and we're ready to reveal what we've been working on. We are proud to announce that the History Center catalog has been moved to *CatalogIt* (right) – a modern and intuitive online space that will allow for easier navigation of our extensive catalog. Twenty-plus years of dedicated work by historians is now easier than ever to discover. You'll be able to find and download many of the History Center's high-resolution images on the spot. Work has also begun to scan in and catalog the



tens of thousands of photographs from the *Camden Herald* archives, which will be periodically released to the public. Visit us on the second floor, Monday to Friday, and occasional Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

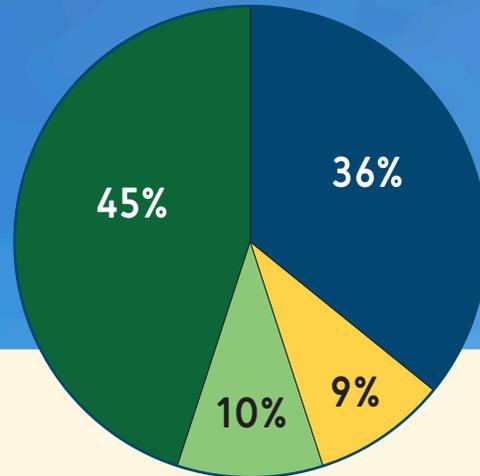
WALSH HISTORY CENTER

Photos from the Archive by *Camden Herald* photojournalists Bonnie Farmer (top) and Sarah Goodyear, May 6, 1993.



YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025
FINANCIAL REPORTS



INCOME

● ANNUAL APPEAL & GRANTS	\$466,797
● PROGRAM & BOOK REVENUE	\$117,800
● ENDOWMENT INCOME	\$121,909
● TOWN of CAMDEN	\$585,000

TOTAL INCOME	\$1,291,506
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EXPENSES

BOOKS, PROGRAMS, & OPERATING	\$237,734
FACILITY MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS	\$182,836
PROFESSIONAL & SUPPORT STAFF	\$813,824
AMPHITHEATRE & HARBOR PARK	\$53,611

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,288,005
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NET	\$3,501
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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.





Anonymous
 The Katie McGrath & J.J. Abrams
 Family Foundation
 Chuck and Deanna Akre
 David and Liz Albertson
 Charles Altschul
 Isa Babb
 Christopher Beebe
 Matt Belkin
 Ken and Sheilah Bishop
 Harris Bixler, in Memoriam
 Steve and Susan Black
 Sheila Bodine
 Mr. and Mrs. James Burrell
 Silvio Calabi and Sue Bramhall
 Sheila Clark
 Michaela Colquhoun
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 John Cummings
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 Jacqueline Merrick

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 Lee and Kim Scheuer, in honor of
 Silvio Calabi, staff, and volunteers
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 Susan and Galen Todd
 Natalie Travia and John Burns
 Steve Vondell, in memory of
 Holly Marie Vondell
 Natalie and Laurence Ward
 Laurie and Russell Warren, M.D.
 Kendra Watkins
 Jamie Williams and Melissa Elliott
 Christina Young and Dan Johnson

MILLAY SOCIETY

The Millay Society Author Series hosted Amity Gaige, Dorie McCullough Lawson, J. Courtney Sullivan, and Annabelle Tometich (above).

ANNUAL DONORS



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Anonymous, in honor of Marti Wolfe
Anonymous, in honor of Schuster
and Richter
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Ed and Allison Ballo
Skip and Kate Bates, in honor of
Dave Jackson
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Lord Camden Inn
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Patricia, George, Margaret, Carrie,
and Jennifer Becker, in memory of
Bebe Goodwin
Pat and Cindy Behling
Molly Stone and Bill Behrens
Joel and Jami Benedict
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Jay Braatz
Kathleen Brandes
Robin and Jeffrey Brawn
George Brecht
Rick and Ann Bresnahan
Connie Brickson
Deborah and Witter Brooke



Aspiring marine scientists of all ages were invited "Within the Whale" to explore Chunk, a life-size, inflatable humpback with realistic internal anatomy.



Ross Brown
 Kathryn Brustlin
 Blaine and Mary Buck
 Lisa R. Burgess, in memory of
 Elinor Jane Grohs
 Stephen and Jean Burleson
 Peter and Deborah Burt
 Donna Busch and John Green
 Barbara M. Buss
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 honor of Micki Colquhoun
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 honor of Susan Fitzgerald
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 in memory of Blanche
 "Bebe" Goodwin
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 Jr., and Davilynn B.
 Cowperthwaite
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 and Nancy Jackson
 Christina Cromwell
 Samuel Crouch
 John Cummings

Aislinn Curry, in honor of
 Nora Curry
 DAAC Designs
 Cheryl Oliveri-Daly and
 Dan Daly
 Jack and Margaret Dautner, in
 honor of Dave Jackson
 Theresa and Jeffrey Davis
 Hazel de Mesa
 Peggy Delano
 Tom DeMarco
 Jeanne DeVine
 Philip Dinkins and Ed Lally
 Jo Dondis and Peter Imber
 Karla Doremus-Tranfield
 Dr. and Mrs. Henry Dorkin
 Susan and Greg Dorr
 Bryant Dutch, in memory of
 Blanche Goodwin
 Edelman Family Advised Fund
 Patrick McManus and
 Melanie Ellsworth
 Deborah and Edward Endl
 Estate of Carole J. Brand
 Estate of Vera J. Hill
 Lisa and David Ettinger, M.D.

Camden Shakespeare Festival transformed the Camden Amphitheatre into northern Italy for "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," complete with Crab, "the sourest-natured dog that lives." Next up is "The Tempest," coming in Summer 2026.



Chris Facq and Barbara Davis
 Dirk Faegre
 Mary Fairfield
 David and Felicia Feldman
 Victoria Ferber
 Angeline Ferris
 James Field and Margaret
 Pickering, in memory of
 Florence Householder
 Roland Findlay
 John and Marisa Fiorito
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 Janet Gold, in honor of
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 Pip Hansen
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 Historic New England
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 Deb and Roy Hitchings
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 Ayn Hsu
 Roger Inhorn and
 Victoria Masakowski
 Susan and John Jackson

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 Stu Kantor and Catherine Lyon
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 Baurzhan Khussainov
 Ariana Killoran
 Benjamin Kimball
 Seth Kimball and Vicki Sommer
 Marcia Kimpton
 Amber M. King, in memory of
 Bonnie Veitch White
 Carol Kintner
 Christine and Will Kline
 Elinor Klivans
 Spencer Knowlton
 Brian and Mary Krebs
 Betsy Kreuzer
 Nancy and Parker Laite, Jr.
 Jill Lang, in honor of Dave
 Jackson, a true gentleman
 Nanette Lapidés
 Dorie McCullough Lawson

Nothing brings the community together quite like Winterfest, supported by First National Bank. With ice carving, a doggy fashion show, and a polar plunge, it proved to be one of the most well-attended events of 2025.



Eric and Diane Lebson
 Susan and Paul Levine
 Beau Lewis and Max Lewis
 Sarah Liberatore
 Loren and Corinne Lidsky
 Kristen Lindquist and
 Paul Doiron
 Loriman C. Looke
 Joan M. Losee
 Pamela MacBrayne and Denis
 Moonan, in memory of John
 MacBrayne's 116th Birthday
 Laura and Mel MacKay
 Betty Ann Mahoney
 Will Murphy Memorial Fund
 Nikki Maounis
 Cynthia D. Margeson
 Michael Margeson
 Jennifer Marks, in memory of
 Bobbie Belkin
 Lee and Bob Martin

Patti Marxsen
 Emily Masi, in memory of Millie
 Rene Mathews and
 Daniel Neumann
 James and Jean Matlack
 Jonathan Maxcy, in honor of
 Irene Maxcy
 Caroline McCabe
 Giovanna McCarthy, in honor
 of Tom McCarthy
 Allan McCobb
 Jane McDonnell
 John H. McGowin
 Charles H. (Todd) McIntosh
 Rebecca McNeal, in memory
 of Blanche Goodwin
 Mary Miller
 Lisa Millimet
 Steve Mintz
 Sue Mitchel
 Aaron and Diane Mitschke

Elizabeth and Stephen Mixer
 Monday Club, in honor of staff
 Alison Montgomery
 Dennis Morand
 Jeremy Morgan and
 Eleanor Cardoza
 Lydia Moriarity Flynn
 Felicia Morlock
 Caroline and Wayne Morong
 Susan and Dave Morrison
 Mark Murray
 Vivian Murray
 James Nickelson
 and Becky Anderson
 Diane Norton and
 Sandy Ellsworth
 Drs. Lauren Cosgrove and
 Thomas O'Brien
 Judith O'Dell
 Glenn and Elaine O'Neil
 Geof and Barb Ohland

AIO food bank satellite shelves are now located in the first-floor elevator vestibule, offering alternate food access to serve vulnerable community members (left). Volunteers, including this Children's Room shelver and Millay member, donated 2,225 hours in 2025. Meanwhile, volunteer-led book sales raised a phenomenal \$38,646!



Elsa Oosthuysen
 Jennifer Otte
 Beedy Parker
 J. Parmalee, in honor of
 Dave Jackson
 Randy and Tara Parrish
 Shannon Pelletier
 Dianne Perfit
 Arthur S. Perry
 Joan and Graham Phaup, in
 honor of Dave Jackson
 Joyce B. Philbrick, in memory
 of Blanche Goodwin
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 PLATO Board of Directors,
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 Ellen Simmons
 Linda Preissel, in memory
 of Mary Orcianelli
 John Prendergast
 Nancy Primeaux

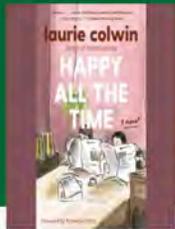
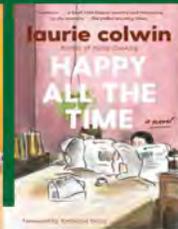
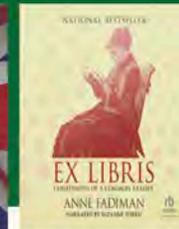
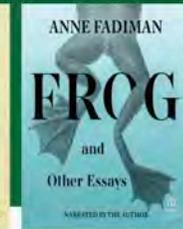
Cyndi Prince
 Michael and Elaine Qualter
 Sherry Rasmussen
 Rick and Karin Rector, in honor
 of Dave Jackson
 Robert Wasserstrom and
 Susan Reider
 Maureen Rhodes
 Felice Richter
 Sally and Don Rieger, in honor
 of Amy Hand
 Q. Robinsunne, *in Memoriam*
 Chris and Heather Rogers
 Martha Rogers, in memory of
 Roberta Belkin
 Val Rohrer, in memory of
 Blanche Goodwin
 Amy Rollins, in honor of
 Dave Jackson
 Rotary Club of West Bay
 Charitable Foundation
 Linda Rowe, in memory of
 Alice Rowe
 Chris Sady
 Anita Sandefur
 Robert and Mary Saner

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 Marina Schauffler and Ed Geis
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 Lee and Kim Scheuer, in honor
 of Silvio Calabi, the staff,
 and all the volunteers
 Audrey Schlick
 Audrey Schlick, in memory of
 Bebe Goodwin
 Jacob and Claire Schneider
 Paula Schuessler, in memory of
 Elinor Jane Grohs
 Leamon Scott, in honor of
 Suzanne W. Scott
 William Scully
 Timothy and Gayle Shaw
 Matthew Siegel
 Jeryna Sigl, in memory of
 E. Jane Grohs
 Giraffe Fund
 Leigh Smith, in memory of
 Ronald Kendrick Smith
 Barbara Spalding
 Richard and Heather Spencer
 Gloria Spindola
 Brenda and Jory Squibb

"Bringing Turtles Out of Their Shells," with Pam Meier and some captivating live turtles, was one of the most memorable programs of the year.

Just added

[SEE ALL](#)

					
Happy All the ... by Laurie Colwin AUDIOBOOK BORROW	Home Cooking by Laurie Colwin EBOOK BORROW	Happy All the ... by Laurie Colwin EBOOK BORROW	Old Filth by Jane Gardam AUDIOBOOK BORROW	Ex Libris by Anne Fadiman AUDIOBOOK BORROW	Frog by Anne Fadiman AUDIOBOOK BORROW

A donor's posthumous grant has opened a new door for our digital-loving community, enabling access to the reading app Libby. You can now borrow ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and more for free. Try it out at librarycamden.overdrive.com!

George and Denise Stadler
Geraldine Steele
Jean Strom
John and Jan Sutorius
Susan Tackel and Eli
Silverman, in memory of
Blanche Goodwin
Lynne and Marty Taylor
The Camden Foundation
The Reny Charitable
Foundation
Elliott and Shelley Thompson
Pamela Tibbetts
The Todd Family, in honor of
Susan Todd
Natalie Travia and John Burns
TREEKEEPERS LLC-Johnson's
Arboriculture

Sylvian Ung
Peter Van Alstine
Susan Michlovitz and
Paul Velleman
Steve Vondell, in honor of
library employees
Natalie and Laurence Ward
Peter and Deborah Warren
Kendra Watkins
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Mike and Cilla Weatherwax
Robert and Wendy Weiler
Michael M. Werner
Margaret Weston
Maria Weymouth
Nina Lynn Wheeler
George and Jacqueline
Wheelwright

Nancy Wheelwright
Jean and Don White
Marty and Denise White
Hugh and Sue White
Sumner Whittier, in memory of
Dorothy L. Whittier
Gabrielle and Joseph Wicklow
Catherine Carty-Wilbur and
Tom Wilbur
Bradley and Mary Ellen Will
John and Lucy Williams
Brian Willson
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Thomas Wolf
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Irene Yadao
Tracy Lord and Edward Zanca



ANNUAL BUSINESS



Annual Lead Sponsors

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First National Bank
The Reny Charitable Foundation

Annual Business Support

DAAC Designs
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TREEKEEPERS LLC-Johnson's Arboriculture

In-Kind Support

Bagel Cafe
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Buttermilk Kitchen at Marriner's
Camden Deli
Camden Law
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Hannaford – Camden
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Once A Tree
Small Wonder Gallery
The Smiling Cow
Maria Weymouth, Legacy Properties –
Sotheby's International Realty



Children sent giant bubbles aloft during the Summer Sun Splash, part of the Summer Reading Program, sponsored by the Reny Charitable Foundation (top). The Pillar Booth offers a productive space for remote workers. Reserve your time at the Circulation Desk.



ART IN THE STACKS

SPONSORS

Lead Sponsor: Ken Gardiner,
Edward Jones – Camden
Once A Tree
Page Gallery
Small Wonder Gallery &
Frameshop

ARTISTS

Meghan Brady
Thomas Bucci
Julie Crane
Ken DeWaard
Carol L. Douglas
Ingrid Ellison
Stephen Florimbi
Mary Ann Heinzen
Alison Hill
Eric Jacobsen
T. Allen Lawson
Ann McClellan
Nathaniel Meyer
Tara Morin
Dominique Ostuni
Colin Page
Peter Ralston
Scott Redfern

Whitney River
Margaret Rizzio
Björn Runquist
Douglas Smith
Marianne W. Smith
Barbara Sullivan
Greta Van Campen
Susan Van Campen
Chris Van Dusen
George Van Hook
Russel Whitten
Susan Williams

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Sue Bramhall
John Cummings
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Elena deLaunay
Kathy and Jack Deupree
Jennifer Drawbridge
Jill and Thaddeus Feeny
Karen Foxwell
Ken and Connie Gardiner
Jennifer Gromada
Elizabeth McLellan
Colin Page
Liz and Jeff Senders
Blake and Tracy Silverman

Kimberly and Gregory Smith
Natalie Travia and John Burns
Robert and Wendy Weiler
Jonathan Williams
Dara Zuckernick

BRICK GARDEN

Anonymous
Stephen Gould
Lisa Gumm-Gray
Chad Harris
Ginger and Richard Hite
Kristy Kilfoyle
Joan and Graham Phaup
Marisa Shumway
Melanie Smith
Marisa Strong
Christina Young
and Dan Johnson
Nancy Young

CAMPAIGN

Carver Hill Gallery
Janny Goss
Deb and Roy Hitchings
Jeremy Morgan and
Eleanor Cardoza
The Reny Charitable
Foundation



**CAMPAIGN FOR
THE FUTURE**

Backed by lead sponsor Edward Jones – Camden, Artist Colin Page, and a Trustee-led team, Art in the Stacks raised \$28,015 to support the library's future.

WE'RE
BACK!

SAVE THE
DATES



CAMDEN ON CANVAS

PLEIN-AIR WEEKEND, AUG. 21-23, 2026

Plein-Air Event

Fri., Aug. 21, to Sun., Aug. 23

Reception and Live Auction

Sun., Aug. 23

Camden Amphitheatre

Edward Jones

Ken Gardiner - Camden, Maine

librarycamden.org/camdenoncanvas



Camden
PUBLIC LIBRARY

55 Main St., Camden, ME 04843
207-236-3440
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LIBRARY STAFF

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