

Friends of the Topsham Public Library

Started in 1998, The Friends of the Topsham Public Library is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to supporting the Topsham Public Library. The Friends value the Topsham Public Library as a cultural, educational, and recreational center and contribute time, effort, and resources to further develop the library’s potential as a dynamic force in our community. The Friends augment the library budget through fundraising to finance virtually all library programs and events. Annual membership, donations, and patronage of the annual book sale strengthen the Topsham Public Library and ensure the continued growth of library services.

The Friends group is guided in its work by creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial approaches to library issues; the encouragement of broad-based participation and financial support for the library; and responsible stewardship of its resources in perpetuity.

The Friends are always looking for new members to help in their support of the library. For more information on joining them, visit friendstopshamlibrary.org.

Friends Signature Programs

The Friends host several signature programs and events:

- Book Sale
- Joy of Series
- Music in March
- Museum Passes
- Books on Wheels
- Big Truck Day
- Annual Fishing Rally
- Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults

Join the Friends of Topsham Public Library:

Annual membership runs July 1 through June 30 the following year.

- Join online: friendstopshamlibrary.org
- Membership levels:
 - ❖ Individual – \$15
 - ❖ Senior (60+) – \$12
 - ❖ Family – \$25

John Larson: 2021 Sarah Whitten Community Award Winner



John and June Larson with their four granddaughters

We are pleased and proud to announce that the winner of the Sarah Whitten Community Award is John Larson, owner and manager of the Topsham Fair Mall for the past 18 years. John, his wife June, and son Jeff, were recently featured in Maine Biz publication in the Focus on Family-Owned Business section.

John supported the library’s Capital Campaign with a donation he facilitated of \$20,000. He is one of the original members of the library’s Business Support Program. John has been involved in the Midcoast Chamber of Commerce and Topsham Development Incorporated (TDI). He is very supportive of the Topsham community.

Events like trick or treating at the mall, sports team sponsorships, and participation in special events characterize John’s civic nature. He takes pride in supporting Maine-based local businesses at the mall.

John and his wife, June, have passed on their love of reading and encouraged the pastime with their own children and now, the grandchildren. When “Grandma June” and “Grandpa John” are away from home, one of the little ones will call them wherever they are for a special bedtime story!

We are so pleased to recognize John and the Larson family’s support of Topsham and the library.

 friends

of The Topsham Public Library

programs for all - that’s what Friends are for

The Friends of the Library was formed by a group of people in 1998 who saw a need and decided to fill it. That’s what the Friends do. When there is a need we step up and do whatever we can to provide for the library.

Erin Scott, President
Friends of the
Topsham Public Library



The Friends’ one-day book sale in June was a huge success. [Photos courtesy of KEITH SPIRO]



History of the Sarah Whitten Community Award

In 2015, the library’s Board of Trustees launched the Sarah Whitten Community Award, which recognizes a community member for their outstanding service to the library and community. The award is given in the spirit of the library’s first donor, Sarah Whitten, who donated her family home in 1941 to serve as Topsham’s first library.

Previous Winners

2015 – Connie Bailey

2016 – Don Russell

2017 – Dana Cary

2018 – Don Sanders

2019 – Janice Solomon

2020 – Jen Ecker

Development: Your Support Is Key

By Kelley Glidden,
Trustee and Development Committee Chair

The theme of this year’s annual report is “Thriving in Difficult Times”. While we have experienced ups and downs throughout the pandemic, the Topsham Public Library has continued to maintain policies and practices that have allowed patrons to safely access the library and its many resources. Our library, in fact, was one of the few in the state to be able to do so. As Topsham residents we should be proud that our library has been able to not only survive during this time, but to thrive. The dedication, adaptability, and creativity of our library staff have led to new ways to serve patrons, including curbside pickup and online programming. Some of these new ways will stay with us beyond the pandemic, as they have made library services more accessible and convenient for community members.

As the chair of the Development

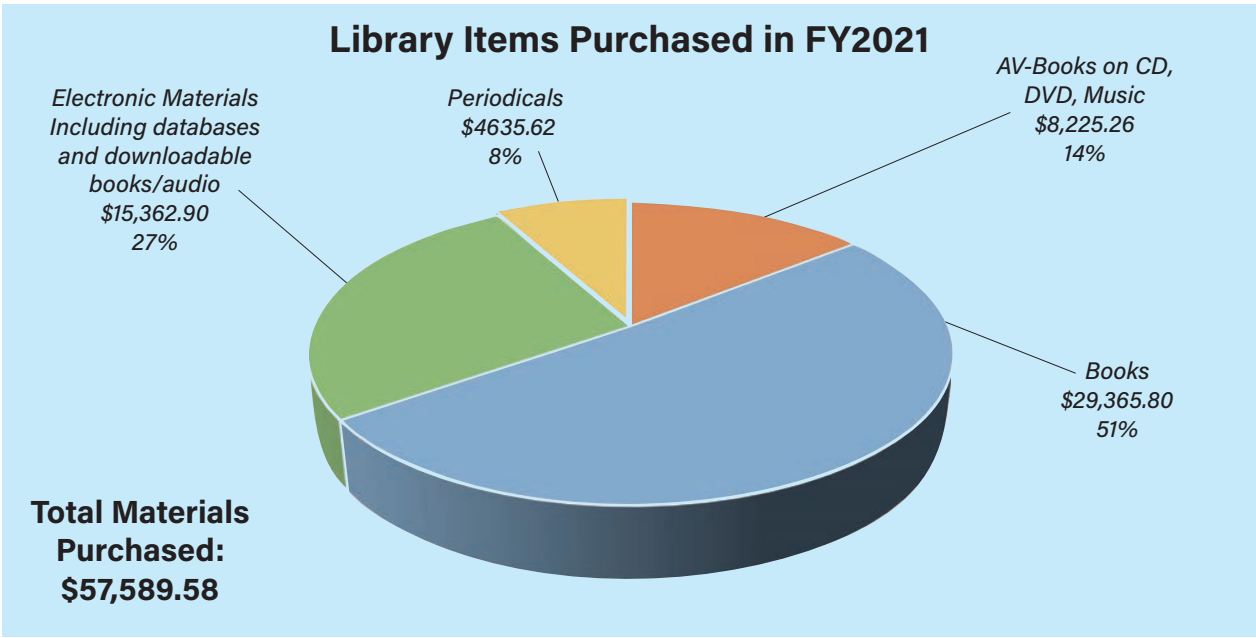
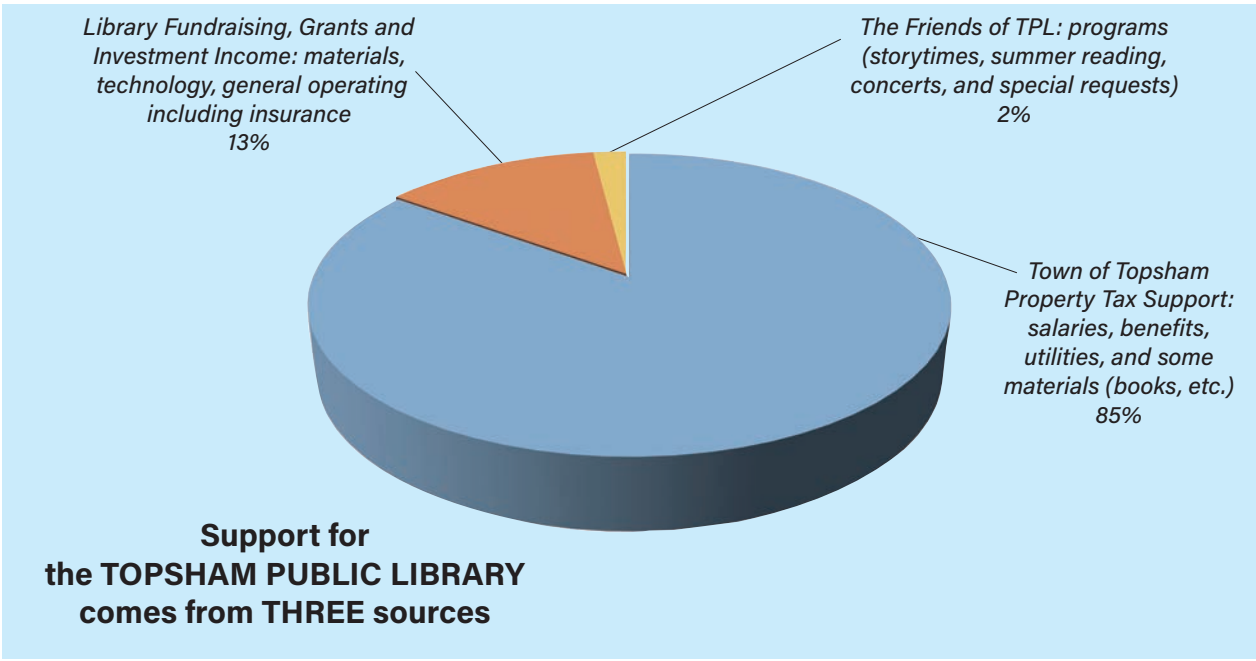
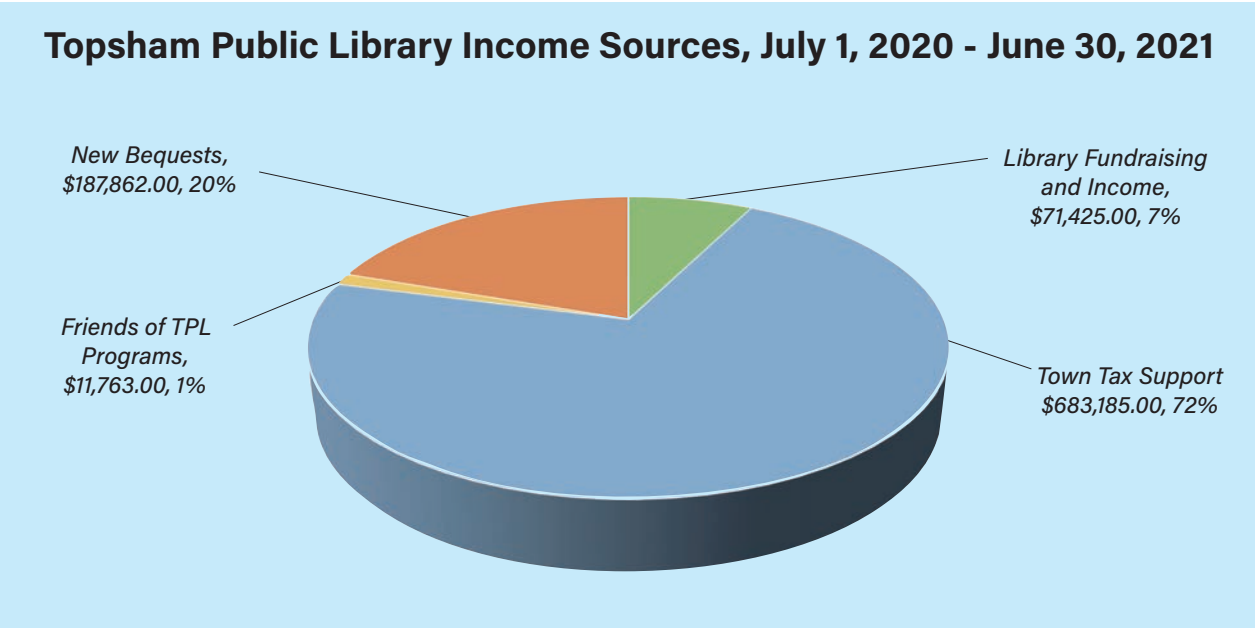
Committee, I am well aware of the necessity of support from our patrons in order for the library to thrive in this way. While the library receives funding from a variety of sources, including the town and grants from foundations, it is the support of our patrons that helps us do more than keep the building open and staffed. Your support helps to pay for new materials, like the latest novels, DVDs, e-books, updated computer equipment, and all of the other things that make the Topsham Public Library such a wonderful community resource.

I invite you to consider what you can do to help the library continue to thrive. A contribution of any amount is a valuable show of support. If you are in a position to be able to make a gift of \$120 or more, you will become a member of the Whitten

Society. Another method of support that can have a large impact by encouraging others to give is to offer matching donations. Or, you may wish to consider the library in your estate planning and provide a legacy gift. There are many ways to give, and if you would like more information on any of these options, please contact our library director, Susan M. Preece.

A thriving library is a critical element of a vibrant and thriving community. We are fortunate in Topsham to have a library that serves us so well, and I hope we can all continue to provide the support that helps make the Topsham Public Library such a unique and valuable part of the life of our town.

Thank you for all you do to support the library.



\$1 = \$22.43
Each dollar given to the library creates \$22.43 of value to the community based on the Maine State Library Use Value Calculator

30,940 Patron visits in FY21

Number of Wi-Fi users in FY21 **31,729**

2,412 Public Use of Library Computers

84,662
The NUMBER of books, audio, movies, and online materials checked out in FY21

The number of cloudLibrary items checked out (eBooks and eAudiobooks) rose 21% between June 2020 (7,383) and June 2021 (8,950)