



As always Big Truck day is a BIG deal



John Gillespie read poetry during April poetry



Our first ever Rock band played for Music in March



Maine Crime Writers satisfy our hunger for murder and mayhem



Bowdoin International Music Festival Community Concert is the highlight of summer



Bernardo is our gargoyle garden mascot



Our garden has been certified as Pollinator-Friendly by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension



Chewonki was here with live reptiles



# TPL Annual Report 2025

TOPSHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Library Staff

**Katherine Webber,**  
Director

**Steve Bouchard,**  
Assistant Director

**Emma J. Gibbon,**  
Adult Services Librarian

**Mariah Sewall,**  
Children's Librarian

**Emily Muttel,**  
Head of Circulation

**Tami Santos,**  
Bookkeeper

**Dale Morgan,**  
Tech Support

**Kelsie Vosburgh,**  
Gallery Coordinator

**Carrie Hawks,**  
Cataloger

**Linda Meadows, PR**

**Lynne Morgan,**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Sam Jamison,**  
**Shantelle Vye,**  
Circulation

**Annette Uschmann,**  
Custodian

**Topsham Public**  
**Library Hours**

**Mon, Wed, and Fri**  
**9 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Tues and Thurs**  
**9 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Sat 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Topsham Public Library**  
**25 Foreside Road**  
**Topsham, ME 04086**  
**(207) 725-1727**  
**topshamlibrary.org**

 [facebook.com/  
topshampubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/topshampubliclibrary)

 [instagram.com/  
topshampubliclibrary](https://instagram.com/topshampubliclibrary)



By Katherine Webber, Library Director

## Level Up Fiscal Year '25

### Game: The Library

- World Map: Topsham Public Library
- Starting Location: Circulation Desk
- New Players Added: Director, Assistant Director, Teen Services Librarian, Gallery Coordinator
- Achievement Unlocked: Long- Range Plan 2025-2028
- Equipment Found: Updated learning computers for children, new light in the entryway, and a bean bag chair for teens

Welcome to the finale of fiscal year 2025 at the Topsham Public Library. We are so pleased that you have joined us again, or for the first time, on this journey. As we explored all that the library world map had to offer, we met new players, found equipment to assist our quest, and formed alliances in the community to help us Level Up.

The library adapted to changing circumstances this year as the former leadership retired and left the new administration in charge. Steve and I have worked hard to maintain the legacy and mission of the organization by getting to know the patrons, supporting the staff, and planning for the future.

This next level of adventure also brought the addition of a teen services librarian and the transition of our gallery coordinator. Both positions were filled with people who embody the enthusiasm of being in a library with the knowledge of how to reach their target audience and the skill to coordinate many moving parts. The teen volunteer program has been a particular success for Lindsey, accumulating nearly 270 hours of support and planning activities like the teen poetry walk and outdoor

mini-golf during the summer. Our gallery continues to thrive under Kelsie, featuring over 125 local artists and attracting over 500 visitors to various receptions and events this past year, which do not include all the people who wandered in weekly to view, or even purchase, the art.

As always, our steadfast children's librarian has formed many connections and is often recognized by younglings in the community, including at the fair. She helped to coordinate our involvement in the Topsham Trunk or Treat and advocated to replace the learning computers in the children's area. Big Truck Day, Within the Whale, and Lindsey and her Puppet Pals were the biggest events this year for Ms. Mariah, in addition to visiting with more than a dozen classrooms and joining forces with the librarian at Woodside.

Adult Services Librarian, Emma has also been busy with programming with hits like the Bowdoin Community Concert, Music in March, and various movie screenings. In addition to our free online author talks, we also added a poetry podcast, complemented by in-person readings throughout the month of April. The ever-popular grab bags are still put out in the first week of every month, and our book clubs are full to bursting. Other staff formed a successful film club that meets on the first Monday of each month, when they discuss a pre-selected movie.

The community and staff provided feedback to us about library services, forming the basis of our Long-Range Plan for 2025- 2028. The plan includes goals such as making the library a more welcoming and accessible destination for residents of all ages and abilities and improving access to a broader collection of materials. People also

**We want the library to have something for everyone to enjoy.**

**Katherine Webber**

requested ways to use our outdoor space more effectively, so we are already brainstorming ideas. We want the library to have something for everyone to enjoy. The full plan may be read on our website or you can request a printed copy at the circulation desk.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful accomplishments of the library in this annual report which features engaging photos and statistics, plus the much-loved pie charts of spending. Thank you for all that you do to support the library through your tax dollars and donations, your check-outs of materials, and your time spent in the building or on the grounds. Achieving new levels to sustain an informed, dynamic, and engaged community is only possible with all of the players working together in the game.

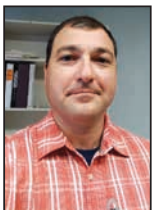
### Mission Statement

**The Topsham Public Library connects people with resources, programs, and each other to stimulate personal growth, enrich minds, and support community.**



# From the Board

By Phil Dostie,  
current President,  
Board of Trustees



The theme for this summer’s reading program was “Level Up,” which focused on discovering new stories, building knowledge, and exploring everything the library has to offer, through games, play, and connection. The Topsham Public Library Board of Trustees has also worked to “Level Up” in the ways we serve the library.

Over the past year we’ve developed a new long-range plan to help guide the library’s future, welcomed a dynamic teen services librarian with big ideas to support and inspire our local teens, and celebrated the contributions of trustees, both new and those of us who are stepping off the board. Each step we’ve taken over the past year has been with the goal of helping the library grow, thrive,

and better serve every member of our community. We remain committed to what libraries have always stood for: open access for all, a welcoming space for all, and the belief that learning, curiosity, and knowledge make our community a stronger and more vibrant one.

Our spectacular library thrives with the support from you: our patrons, neighbors, and friends. Each time you check out a book, attend a program, or support the library in any way, you’re helping us level up together. Thank you for standing with us and believing in the vital role that libraries play in creating a connected, informed, and compassionate community. Thank you for being a part of our community.

Want to help us further level up? Bring someone new to a library program, share a library story with a friend or neighbor, or speak up in support of libraries and what they stand for. Each of our voices matter, and together we can ensure that libraries remain a place of belonging and discovery for all community members.

## Topsham Public Library Board of Trustees, FY25 Members:

- Kelley Glidden, President
- Barbara Swiderski, Vice President
- Phil Dostie, Secretary
- Jim Doyle, Treasurer
- Erin Arneson
- Steve Diamond
- Laura Miller
- Deborah O’Neil
- Mike Snow
- Don Stein
- Patricia Vaughn
- Eleanor Young, MSAD No. 75 Student Representative
- Anne Eustis, Emeritus

# With a Little Help from our Friends



By Lori Aliberti,  
President, Friends of the  
Topsham Public Library

Greetings!

As a supporting organization for the Topsham Public Library, we believe in the transformative power of libraries. Our mission is to help provide the programs and resources our community accesses through our beloved library.

We fulfill this commitment through our fundraising efforts, donations, and Friends’ memberships. The donations and revenue generated allow us to enhance patrons’ opportunities to experience the library’s many resources, events, and “Joy Series” programs. Joy of the Pen, Joy of the Lens, and Joy of Art offer local artists the chance to showcase their talent in writing, photography, and other art mediums, respectively. Our community is fortunate to have access to reliable and continually updated resources. It’s a thrill to witness

Join the Friends today at  
[friendstopshamlibrary.org](http://friendstopshamlibrary.org)

community involvement and hear stories from patrons who have expanded their culture by learning new skills, enhancing their talents, enjoying art programs, attending performances, and even discovering new passions!

We advocate for all library programs that foster connection and personal growth for all ages. This year’s library summer program theme, “Level Up,” provided ample opportunities and a noteworthy focus on our community’s interests. Whether it’s workshops, weekly gatherings for patrons with similar interests, special music performances, or engaging literary events, we are proud to be a part of that support. Our ultimate goal is to enable the library to be a dynamic center where every individual can access the tools and knowledge they need to thrive, achieving something that truly makes them feel more capable and empowered.

Are you a Friends’ member? If you are, thank you for your continued support! If not, now is a perfect time to join! More information about our organization can be found on our website, [friendstopshamlibrary.org](http://friendstopshamlibrary.org), and we look forward to seeing you at the next event!

The Friends of the Topsham Public Library fund virtually all of our programming through their membership fees, the book sale, and other fundraising projects.



Dr Dwayne Tomah presents a program on Maine's Native American experience



Mariah and Katherine as Joy and Sadness at the Topsham Fair Grounds Halloween event in October 2024



Our Joy of Art Reception always celebrates local artists



The younger crowd took on the Mystery in the Library

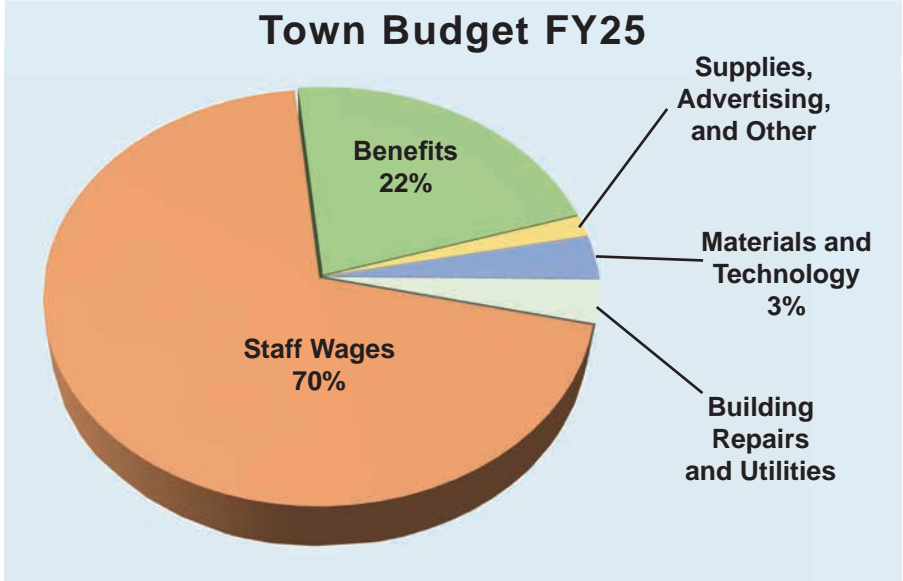


2nd Chance Ukulele Band plays at Music in March, a spring favorite



Maine Speaks Elizabeth DeWolfe on Dangerous Temptations Textile 'Factory Girls' in Fact and Fiction





**Town Budget:** The library spent \$849,359.34 of Town funds in FY25, which included staff wages and benefits, technology like new computers and software updates, supplies for covering books and maintaining operations, plus our utilities costs.

460

new patrons

10,643

wifi connections

94,178

total circulation of materials

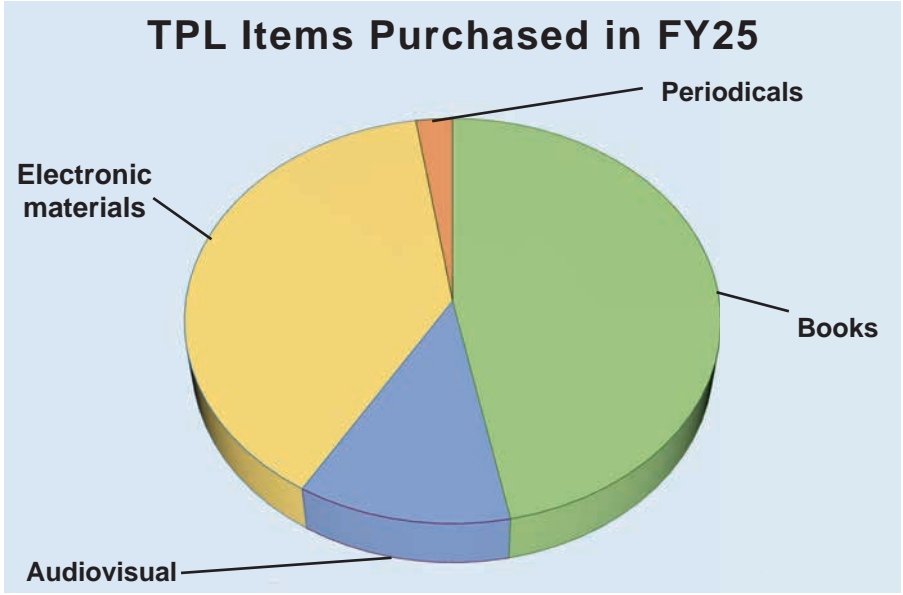
49,340

visits

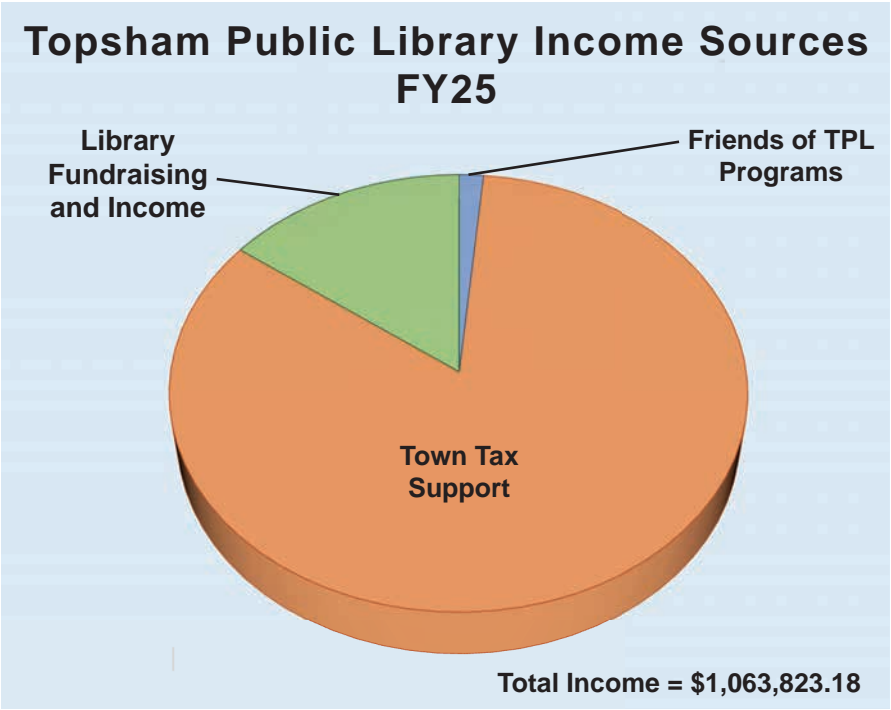
Avg: 166 per day

19,831

uses of CloudLibrary



**TPL Items purchased:** This chart shows how much we spent on various material types in FY25. The majority is physical books followed by about 39% in digital materials like e-books, e-magazines, and movie streaming, nearly 12% on audiovisual like DVDs and books on CD, and 2% on newspapers or other periodicals.



**Library Income Sources:** The Library has three different sources of income, as represented in this chart. About 83% of our money comes from the Town with 1.5% from the Friends of the Library for programming, and the remaining amount from fundraising, meeting room fees, grants, or other contributions.

Over 125 local artists featured in the Crooker Gallery

215

childrens programs

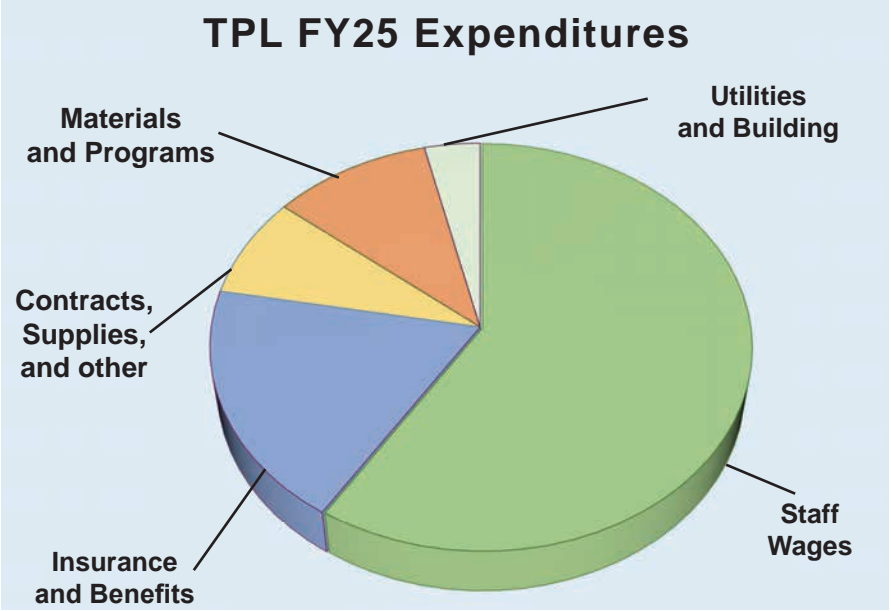
124

Teen programs

189

Adult programs

Offered in FY25



**Total Expenditures:** In FY25, we spent \$1,004,125.98 to cover all of the annual operating expenses for the library. This includes staff wages and benefits, materials, supplies, programming, and building upkeep.

1,251

views of our online author talks

Over 5,300

reference questions answered

414 uses of the community room

Business Sponsors

The Topsham Public Library owes much of what it is today to business and community leaders who, like Andrew Carnegie, dedicated time, talent, and treasure to ensure that the community would have a PUBLIC resource to benefit the “industrious and ambitious... [those] most anxious and able to help themselves.” As a member of the business community, you can maintain this legacy through business sponsorship.

In return, we recognize your investment in the well-being of the community, and you benefit from a community that can help your business succeed: you do well by doing good.

Business Sponsors annually sponsor the library’s mission at \$250 or higher.

You can find out more about Business Sponsors by calling Katherine at the library or emailing [director@topshamlibrary.org](mailto:director@topshamlibrary.org).

Thank you to all our Business Roundtable Members in FY25

Visionary Champions – \$5,000 and higher



DIRECT ~ RELEVANT ~ COMMUNITY

Mission Champion – \$3,000 - \$4,999



Community Champions – \$1,000 - \$2,999



Business Champion – \$500 - \$999

Help us fill this level

Business Sponsors – Up to \$499



“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.”

Andrew Carnegie, entrepreneur, businessman, philanthropist



Thanks to everyone for your kind words

“Mariah does the best circle times around!”

“I truly value the excellent staff and the sense of community offered by the library.”

“You are doing a great job. We love our library!”

“Thank you so much for the services you provide to the community!”

11,534

people attended children, teen, and adult programs this year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*An annual gift of more \$120 or more makes you a member of the Whitten Society!

I/We would like to make a one-time donation:

\$35 \_\_\_\_ \$60 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \*\$120 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ Other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Join the Foreside Club by making a monthly recurring donation of \$5 or more!

I/We would like to make a monthly donation:

Monthly: \$5 \_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_ Other amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the Topsham Public Library are tax deductible.

DONATE NOW

Donate online at [topshamlibrary.org](http://topshamlibrary.org) or send a check to: Topsham Public Library 25 Foreside Road Topsham, ME 04086