

# ANNUAL REPORT FY22

AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
49 SPRING STREET  
AUBURN, ME 04210



# AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## Library Hours

**Monday**

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**Tuesday through Friday**

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**Saturday**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

It is with great sadness that we share the news of APL Trustee, Alfreda Fournier's passing. Alfreda gave of herself to the Library, first as the Mayor's representative to the Board and then as an elected trustee.

We will miss her energy, insight, passion, and dedication to us and the Auburn community.



*Photo courtesy of the Sun Journal*

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year we have seen a slow transition to a new normal here at APL. Covid-19 is still here, but we are assimilating it into our everyday lives. The library staff continues to adapt library expectations to current Covid guidelines to keep staff and customers as safe as possible. Mamie and the staff have weathered a long crisis and deserve our heartfelt appreciation and respect. As I stated in my 2019 Annual report “The library is a jewel in the middle of Auburn that still sparkles under the direction of Mamie and her amazing staff.”

Here are some highlights from the past year:

The Children’s Room Halloween Party in 2021 was a huge success with over 350 participants. It was one of the first in-person activities held in the library since 2020. With a line out the door, and parking spots hard to find, staff and families were all very patient and accommodating, even the kids, who paraded in their costumes. Staff did a great job with their positive on-the-spot adaptations as the unexpected numbers kept coming! What a safe way to Trick or Treat! Kudos to everyone.

APL has brought back book club offerings both virtually and in person. Adult Services Manager, Donna Wallace, drives community conversations with non-fiction selections related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. APL Assistant Librarian, Suzanne Sullivan’s fiction based Friday Book Club has been so popular APL is adding an additional book discussion on Mondays, as well as a mystery themed book club, this fall. During the summer, Brandon Dyer, APL Children’s Librarian, launched his first youth book group to an overwhelming success. Twelve children read fan favorite, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, followed by a showing of the movie. This led to the classic question, which is better, the book or the movie? Adult fiction, nonfiction, and youth book groups will continue throughout the fall.

The Summer Reading Program for 2022, Ocean of Possibilities, allowed APL to create truly unique programs for the children, teens, and adults in our community.

Highlights included a poetry contest in partnership with Androscoggin Land Trust and our kids’ ocean themed bingo cards. APL’s partnership with the Auburn Recreation summer camp has been in place for over a decade and continued in 2022. APL staff did in-person story time weekly to campers Pre-K through 2nd grade.

The library continues to partner with the CareerCenter to offer assistance and access to computers/technical assistance to patrons who are applying for jobs.

The Library’s used book sales have started again...after a lot of gleaning and re-organizing of the donations by a very dedicated group of library volunteers. Regular Saturday 9-12 hours started on September 3rd. Great titles at great prices!

Grant monies awarded to APL were used in fun projects. The Teen Space was renovated this spring thanks to a grant from International Paper. Bangor Savings Foundation allowed for an initial purchase of WonderBooks for the Children’s Room. These books allow children to read along with recorded audio and answer literacy questions at the end of the story. The Create Media Lab was updated with monies from Proctor and Gamble.

**APL is an outstanding library in the central Maine area. We all benefit from having access to this amazing resource in Auburn. We are very fortunate to have the financial support of many individuals, numerous business partners, and the City of Auburn and the Town of Minot. I am looking forward to a fresh new year for all our patrons.**

The Library was very fortunate to receive two substantial donations from the estates of Mr. Robert Parnes (\$70,000.) and Miss Margery Eyer Schuler (\$350,000). The Schuler Estate also included a robust collection of her original paintings and travelogues. Our heartfelt thanks to both estates.

Patricia Gautier,  
APL Board of Trustees President

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



There are many stories held within the walls of a library. Whether written on a page or in other media formats, the library is a magical place, or a spooky one, or a crime scene, or a kingdom. Auburn Public Library has its own wonderful story to tell. It begins like this.....

Once upon a time there was a visionary group of Auburn residents who saw and understood the advantages of having a public library, one open to all Auburn citizens. In 1895 in partnership with the City, the Auburn Public Library relinquished its original status as a

members-only institution and became a free library open to everyone. It was seen as "... an agency for general self-improvement, providing opportunities for education leading to an informed and therefore better electorate." A true democratic institution. (The History of the Auburn Public Library, p. 1, author and date unknown) That idea took root and for the next 127 years it has guided the Library into its modern-day mission to "Engage, Enrich, and Enlighten."

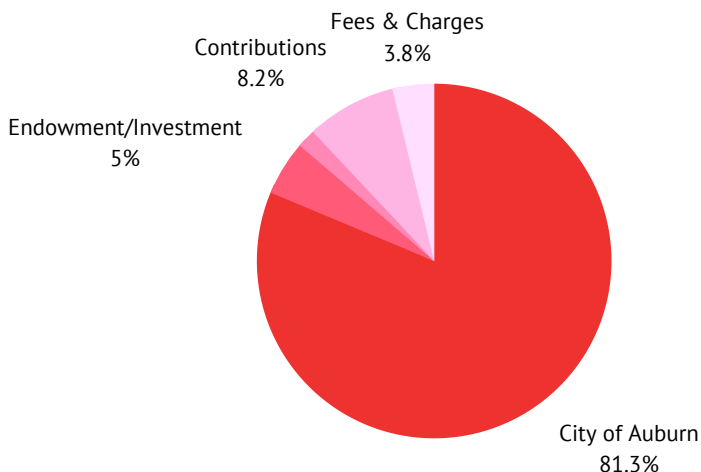
Like those who came before us, taking on an uncertain direction, we have also faced uncertainty over the past year (To get vaccinated or not, to wear a mask or not, to disinfect every square inch of the building or not). With the utmost concern for our staff and customers we have met those challenges by slowly reducing restrictions as it was safe to do so.

While there are still some changes in place, APL is back and fully functioning. The sounds of children laughing (and crying), keyboard clacking, and the conversations of our community can once again be heard when you enter the library.

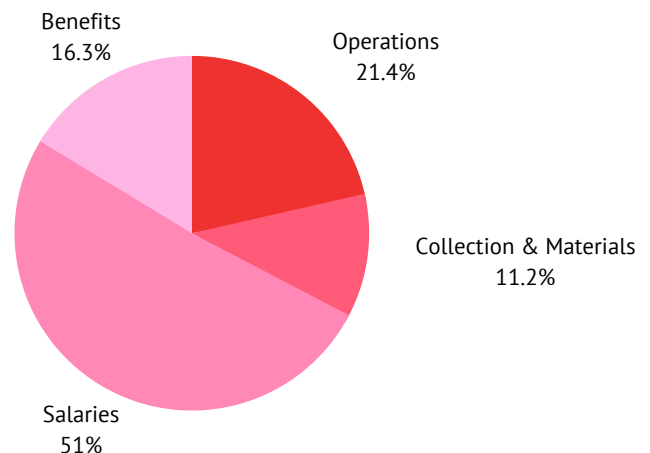
We are turning to a new page in the story of APL. One that is filled with reading challenges, book clubs, story times, and so much more. Always keeping our mission in mind when taking on new endeavors, we are excited to share a new web-based platform, Bendable, which brings forward a curated collection of learning from national, state, and local resources. APL will be contributing some programs soon. We hope Auburn Public Library is in your own story too.

— Mamie

## FY22 REVENUE (UNAUDITED)



## FY22 EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)



# APL BY THE NUMBERS

FY2022

**83,757**

Visitors to the  
Library

**6,407**

Total  
Cardholders

**985**

New Cards Issued

**141,235**

Items  
Checked Out

**5,660**

Items Added to  
the APL  
Collection

**18,825**

Items Borrowed  
by Other  
Libraries

**658**

Programs Offered

**7,225**

Program  
Attendance

**114,317**

Website Visits

July 1st, 2021 - June 30th, 2022

# APL ANNUAL DONORS

Volunteers give generously of their time, serving on boards and committees or assisting in providing library services and programs.

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July 1st, 2021 - June 30th, 2022  
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*Linking Library with Local Business*

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