


**Phoebe  
Griffin  
Noyes**   
**OLD LYME LIBRARY**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**July 1, 2018–  
June 30, 2019**

# OUR MISSION

is to inspire lifelong learning & discovery in a welcoming place with exceptional resources, programs, & services.

# OUR VISION

is to be the community's vibrant hub for engagement, discovery, & creativity.

# ABOUT THE LIBRARY

Established in 1897, the Old Lyme–Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library is a private, independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It is owned by the Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library Association, Inc., & governed by its Board of Trustees. The day-to-day operations of the Library are managed by the Library Director & 11 staff (total FTE 7.81). As the Town of Old Lyme's designated Public Library, it receives some funding from the municipality (45% in FY18-19). This municipal funding combines with income from the Association's Endowment, the proceeds of the Library's annual fund drive, income from the Friends of the Library, & various grants to fund the Library's annual operating budget. The Library is a long-standing member of the Libraries Online, Inc. consortium.

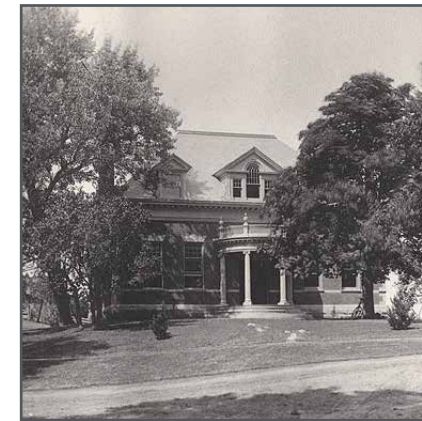
From developing fun, interactive storytimes for infants & toddlers to hand-delivering books to home-bound patrons, the Library continues to provide opportunities for residents of all ages to learn & grow. Our core services include: providing access to a variety of print & digital books, audio-visual media, & research tools; assisting with technology & encouraging the development of information literacy; supporting the public school curriculum; conducting early literacy training & fostering an enduring interest in learning & reading among our youngest patrons; & offering programming that informs & engages the community.

# LIBRARY STAFF

- Katie Huffman *Director*
- Linda Alexander *Public Services Manager*
- Katie Balocca *Development Assistant*
- Julie Bartley *Children's Librarian*
- Nike Desis *Young Adult Librarian*
- Janet Everett *Cataloger*
- Kristine Ferguson *Access Services Manager*
- Mary Jo Helchowski *Substitute Circulation Asst.*
- Katy Klarnet *Substitute Librarian*
- Evelyn Morgen *Administrative Assistant*
- Kathy Sharp *Circulation Assistant*
- Jessica Steding *Reference & Tech Librarian*

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- Patrick Gingras *Vice President*
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# Renewal Project

The Renewal Project is a multi-year project to re-evaluate and re-imagine library services and plan for the future. This year, the Library continued its focus on Phase II of the project—updating our building and redesigning our space to better align with our new vision and better serve the community. Specific achievements include:

**Hiring an Architectural Firm:** In October 2018, the Library Board of Trustees hired TSKP Studio to complete the design and

construction documents.

**Hiring a Construction Management Firm:** In February 2019, the Library Board of Trustees hired Burlington Construction Co. to coordinate the public bidding process and then manage day-to-day construction.

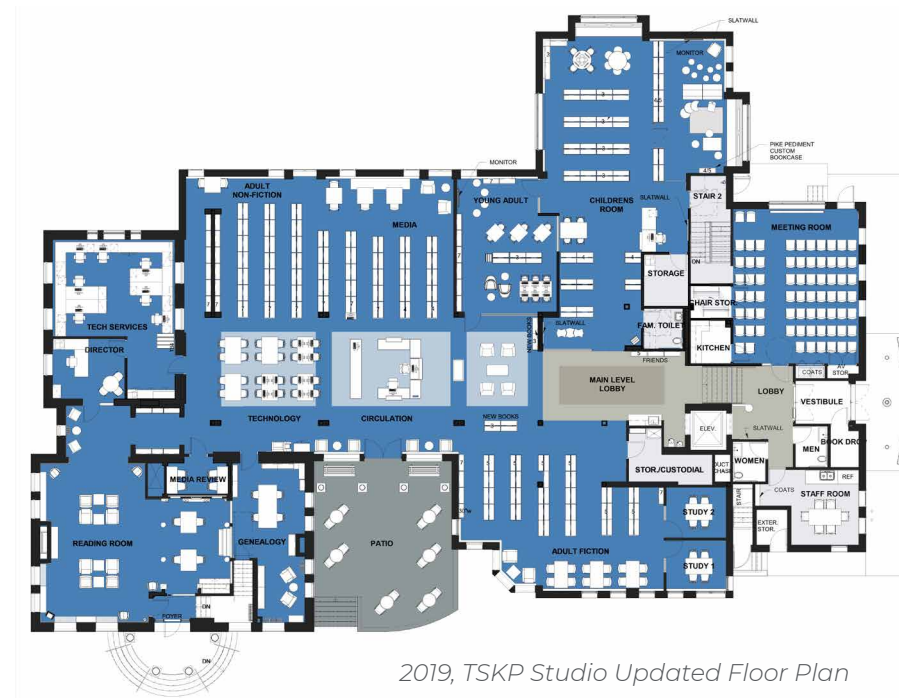
**Funding the Project:** The Library Board of Trustees committed to raising \$4 million toward the Renewal Project. \$2.75M was raised before the current year—\$1M from the Connecticut State Library and \$1.75M from the Town—leaving \$1.25M to be raised from private donors. In Fall 2019, the Renewal Capital Campaign Committee developed a campaign packet highlighting the importance of this community project and began a quiet leadership campaign. To date, the committee has received leadership commitments totaling \$1,000,000. A public campaign will begin in October 2019 to raise the remaining required funds.

**Preparations Behind the Scenes:** A Building Committee Sub-Committee has worked closely with Library Staff and TSKP Studio designers to select Library furnishings and finishes. In addition, Library Staff started cleaning house and organizing materials in preparation for relocating to accommodate

renovations and, ultimately, align with the new building plan.

### Establishing a Time Line:

The Library published bid documents in late August 2019 and plans to begin construction in September. While services will be affected, the Library will remain open for the duration of the renovation, scheduled to be complete by Summer 2020.



2019, TSKP Studio Updated Floor Plan

# Collaborations

As part of its vision to be a vibrant community hub, the Library partners with local organizations to bring exceptional programs and opportunities to the Old Lyme community. While these partnerships and collaborations are too numerous to list, 2019-2020 highlights included:

**Mentoring Corps for Community Development | Live Organ Donation:** In October, the Library partnered with the Mentoring Corps for Community Development to host Dr. David C. Mulligan, nationally and internationally recognized Professor of Surgery and Chief of Yale's Organ Transplantation Program. Dr. Mulligan discussed the evolution of transplantation to date, including live donation. Following his remarks, a panel of local donors and recipients talked about their life-altering experiences.



**Senior Center and Meals on Wheels | Spirited Giving:** In December, the Library coordinated the Spirited Giving program to engage middle-schoolers in the giving spirit of the season. Participants potted mini-succulents and wrote/designed mini books about them. The plants, stories, and care instructions were delivered to 20 local Meals on Wheels recipients thanks to help from Stephanie Lyons at the Senior Center. Recipients also received a pre-addressed, stamped return postcard with which to send a return message to the creator. In February, the giving spirit continued; middle-schoolers designed over 50 Valentine's cards to share with Senior Center visitors.

**The Lighthouse | Volunteering:** In Fall 2018, the Library began partnering with The Lighthouse, a program dedicated to the employment, education, and independence of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A regular volunteer from The Lighthouse community assisted Young Adult Librarian Nike Desis with the new Pub Club events. The volunteer not only provided hands-on help, but became an important and influential member of the young adult community.



**LYSB | Run Like A Girl:** In Fall 2018, the Library collaborated with LYSB for the second year in a row to offer a 10-week running program for girls age 8 and up. Participants received the training necessary to complete a 5K run as well as education on stretching, nutrition, injuries, and stress relief.

**Audubon Connecticut | Birds Bring Benefits:** In January, the Library partnered with Audubon Connecticut to host a presentation by Jenny Dickson, Wildlife Biologist at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Ms. Dickson's presentation focused on the long-term decline of bird populations in the area and educated patrons on how to help halt the decline.

**Community Connections | Non Profit Networking Reception:** In March, the Library hosted a Community Connections Reception to foster nonprofit partnerships. The event featured guest speakers Kitty Stalsburg, Executive Director of High Hopes, and Katherine Verano, Executive Director of Safe Futures. Attendees learned about the inspirational collaboration between these two organizations and had an opportunity to network and plan for the months ahead.

**Chamber of Commerce and Old Lyme Schools | Future Business Leaders of America Panel:** In March, Children's Librarian Julie Bartley participated in a Future Business Leaders of America Panel hosted by the Chamber. She and the other panel members spoke to students about choosing a career and their personal experiences as a working professionals.

**The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and The Old Lyme Land Trust | Let's Get Hiking:** In April, the Library partnered with the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and the Old Lyme Land Trust to host *Let's Get Hiking*, a program designed to inspire residents to explore the Old Lyme habitat. DPNC educator Nikki Boushee and Old Lyme Land Trust member Anne Galliher wove together an amazing program about spotting evidence of local critters and about their habitats in Old Lyme.



**Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut | Leading Together 2019:**

In June, the Library partnered with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to host a Thriving Community Conversation. This series, designed by the Foundation, aims at starting conversations in towns across the state to help make them stronger. About 60 residents came together for a conversation facilitated by Maryam Elahi, President and CEO of the Foundation. After a brief welcome and introduction from Kirsten Sicuranza, Library Board President, the floor was opened for those in attendance to share what they love about living in Old Lyme, how the town has or should change, as well as some of the challenges

facing the community. Ensuing conversations centered on the schools, youth mentoring, food insecurity, affordable housing, plans for Halls Road, and adequate support for immigrants.

**Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center | Pollinator Gardens:** In June, the Library collaborated with the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center to present an informational talk by Anne Penniman and Eleanor Robinson. Participants learned which plants will help attract birds and insects to add ecological value to your garden.



**Arts and Culture District | Make Music Day and Midsummer Festival:**

This year the Library continued to partner with other nonprofits and businesses to promote the art and learning opportunities available on historic Lyme Street. Major events included Make Music Day on Friday, June 21st and the annual Midsummer Festival on Saturday, July 27.

**Pfizer | Volunteer and Grant Program:** In July, 8 Pfizer employees and their families worked together to beautify the Library. They scrubbed the stone patio; cleaned, sanded, and resealed the teak patio furniture; and

weeded the front grounds for a combined total of 35 work hours. Not only did their work directly benefit the Library, but it also earned a monetary grant for the Library from Pfizer. Wen He, a regular library patron and Pfizer employee organized the project.

**SARAH Family of Agencies:** The Library was proud to continue working with SARAH, a Connecticut organization whose mission is “to enrich the lives of persons with differing abilities, their families, and the community and to provide advocacy services and support.” SARAH participants met regularly at the Library to have lunch, use Library collections, and socialize

## Focus on Authors

As part of its mission to inspire discovery, the Library regularly connects local authors with readers through book signings, lectures, and special events. Thankfully, our region boasts an abundance of talented authors. 2019-2020 author event highlights included:



**David Handler:** Award-winning crime novelist David Handler returned to celebrate the resurrection of his beloved Lulu and Hoagy series.

**Wick Griswold:** Associate professor of sociology at the University of Hartford, Wick Griswold returned to share his most recent book on local history, *Connecticut River Ferries*.

**Ceremonial Stonework: The Enduring Native American Presence on the Land:** Author and documentary photographer Markham Starr shared some of the most interesting examples documented in his book of ceremonial stonework left behind by the indigenous population that

occupied New England for over 12,000 years. His talk was followed by a local hike to give participants a first-hand experience of the stonework as it was meant to be seen.

**They Called Her Reckless:** Janet Barrett shared the story of Reckless, a Korean warhorse who hauled ammunition to the front lines for the U.S. Marine Fifth Regiment's Recoilless Rifle Platoon.

**Prognosis Misdiagnosis:** A staunch advocate for the misdiagnosed, author Eileen Radziunas shared her story and talked about the importance self-advocacy and the benefits of support groups for the chronically ill.



**Luanne Rice:** In March, the Library hosted an intimate lunch and conversation with bestselling author Luanne Rice. More than 75 people attended the sold-out event to hear Luanne talk about books, writing, life, finding inspiration in Old Lyme, and everything that makes life here so special. Luanne shared how important the Library has been to her over the years, beginning as a young, aspiring writer who would bike down to the Library reading room for a quiet writing spot.

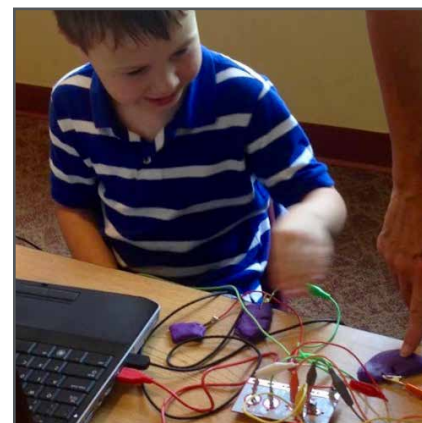
**Of the Birds:** Author and photographer Stanley Kolber shared his favorite locations in Southeastern Connecticut and coastal Rhode Island for bird watching and natural exploration.

**Hidden History of Middlesex County:** Local authors Robert and Kathleen Hubbard revealed many unforgettable stories in their exploration of Middlesex County.

**Travels of Thelonious:** In October, graphic novelist Jon Buller attended the monthly youth book club—Graphic Language: A Graphic Novel Book Club—to join the conversation on his book, *Travels of Thelonious*.

## Learn Something New

As part of its mission to inspire life-long learning, the Library regularly hosts workshops and seminars to educate and inspire Old Lyme residents to try something new. 2019-2020 highlights included:



**Programming and Engineering:** Kids and young adults explored the world of programming by using everyday objects like foil and water and a Makey Makey kit to play video games and digital musical instruments, and in the fall they developed light-up, hand-crafted LED wands in a 2-part engineering workshop.

**DIY Organizing and Planning:** The library hosted a variety of workshops to empower patrons to “do it yourself,” including *Practical Room by Room Organizing Tips* with professional organizer Ellen, *How to Get Your House Ready to Show* with local realtor and stager Martha Quaratella, *Financial Aid Planning* with financial advisor Sean Flynn, and *Create a Family Operating Manual* with financial planner Shane O'Brien.

**Let's Get Moving:** Kids ages 7–12 built confidence and focus while learning self-protection during this 4-week martial arts workshop taught by Sensei Nils Johnson, and adults were introduced to the different styles and types of yoga in a 4-part introduction to yoga taught by The Yoga Shop.

**Cursive Writing Workshop:** Children in grades 3 and up attended a four-week program designed to teach them the lost art of cursive writing. Participants practiced the standard cursive alphabet and developed their own individual styles and signatures.



## Music, Art, and Creativity

As part of its vision to foster creativity, the Library regularly provides opportunities to connect with music, art, and other creative ventures. 2019-2020 highlights included:

**Music and Dance:** Children explored the world of music as they sang and played musical instruments with Ms. Eleanor each month; learned



the ancient art of hula dancing with Tiare Kahana; sang-along with special guest Mary Poppins; and kicked up their heels at a special St. Patrick's Day dance demonstration by students from Gray's School of Irish Dance Performance.

**Painting and Portraits:** Children celebrated Women's History Month by creating a still life painting in the style of a famous female artist while adults dived into the world of art history in a 3-part lecture series on the art of the portrait from Impressionism to Pop Art taught by Bob Potter.

**Creative Writing Workshop:** Local poet Dr. Roger Singer shared various methods to improve your writing while discovering your creative style.

**Vision Boxes:** In March, the Old Lyme Land Trust installed a temporary exhibit of their Vision Box project in the Library. The Vision Box Project was initiated by Ana Flores, Visiting Artist at the University of New Haven's Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, and completed in collaboration with non-profit land trusts, the open space commission, individual stewards, and local artists.



**Pub Club:** Young Adults in grades 5 to 8 met weekly during the school year to delve into the world of publishing, storytelling, and communicating.

**Phoebe's Haunted BookCellar:** For the second year running, the Library teens collaborated, with guidance from Young Adult Librarian Nike Desis, to design and create a spooky, but not too scary, haunted cellar for the Library's younger visitors on Halloween. More than 500 visitors delighted in the transformation.

## 2019 Summer Learning Program

Working with the theme *A Universe of Stories!*, this year we unveiled a whole new approach to Summer Learning. Children's Librarian Julie Bartley and Young Adult Librarian Nike Desis worked

collaboratively with the Media Specialist team from Region 18 and Lyme Public Library Children's Librarian Barbara Carlson to create a brand new program with the goal of empowering students and families to READ. LEARN. EXPLORE! in the summer months to combat learning loss and develop the love of reading. The new program got off to a phenomenal start with a Mile Creek Summer Learning Pep Rally! The new program included a special Book Bingo initiative. Students had to complete 5 unique learning or reading tasks to submit their entries. This year's participants included ten students from Birth-PreK; thirty students in Grades K-5, and seventeen students in Grades 6-12. Student and

parental feedback was 100% positive.



## The Friends of the Library & Phoebe's BookCellar

The Friends is an all-volunteer organization devoted to strengthening the partnership between the Library and the Old Lyme community through support, volunteerism, and advocacy. Some Friends maintain membership to show support of The Friends' mission, while others volunteer their time. The Friends strengthen the Library by fundraising through Phoebe's Bookcellar, caring for and beautifying the Library grounds, and hosting social events to build support for the Library. Highlights this year included:

**Funding:** The Friends provided \$20,000 to the Library to be spent on materials and services.

**Rebranding:** The Friends worked collaboratively with Library staff to develop a new logo for The Friends and The BookCellar to compliment the Library's rebranding in the prior year.



**Hospitality and Garden Committees:** The hospitality and garden committees continued working to create a welcoming atmosphere at the Library. The hospitality committee prepared refreshments and staging for events, including the Annual Holiday Book Sale and Lunch with Luanne, while the garden committee continued to change out the festive pots at the entrance and prepare the gardens for the upcoming renovation.

**Membership Committee:** This year, the committee worked to put the new membership guidelines developed last year into practice.

After much work, membership now amounts to 205 active members. The committee also worked to develop easy, annual communications with all volunteers to engage them in all of our Friends' activities and encourage continued membership.

**BookCellar:** This year, BookCellar co-managers Claudia Condon and Joan Overfield continued to provide exceptional leadership to their team of more than 60 volunteers. They worked together this year to:

- Raise more than \$19,000 in support of the Library.

- Expand sales by selling jigsaw puzzles, which have proven to be very popular.

- Procure new, flexible shelving for the Library lobby at no cost, resulting in a significant increase in lobby sales.

- Hold 3 half-price sales, the ever-popular Holiday sale in the Reading Room, and a sale on the Library lawn during Old Lyme's Midsummer Festival.

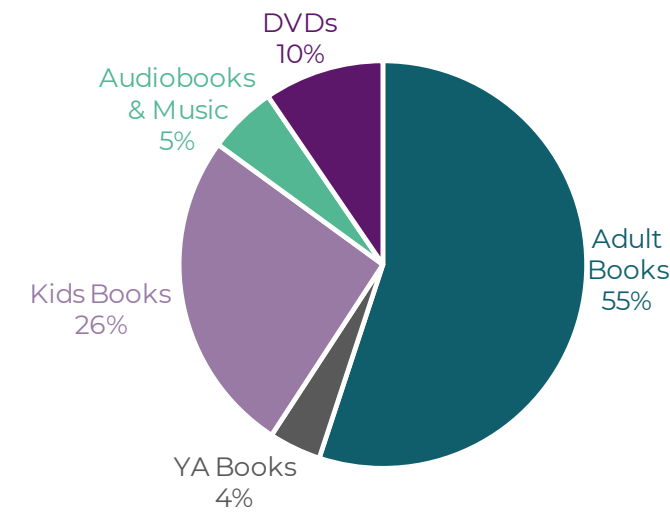
- Work collaboratively with Library Staff to prepare for the upcoming renovations.

- Expand BookCellar marketing, including an increased presence on Facebook and advertisements on Lymeline, the Lyme-Old Lyme Patch, Bookfinder.com, and the Town of Old Lyme News and Announcements.

# BY THE NUMBERS: SERVICES

# BY THE NUMBERS: FINANCES

**Physical Collections:** 38,000+ print items & media items available for use

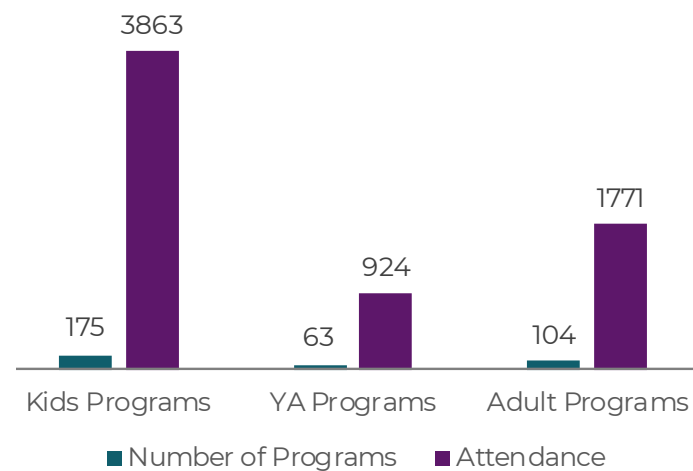


## Digital Collections:

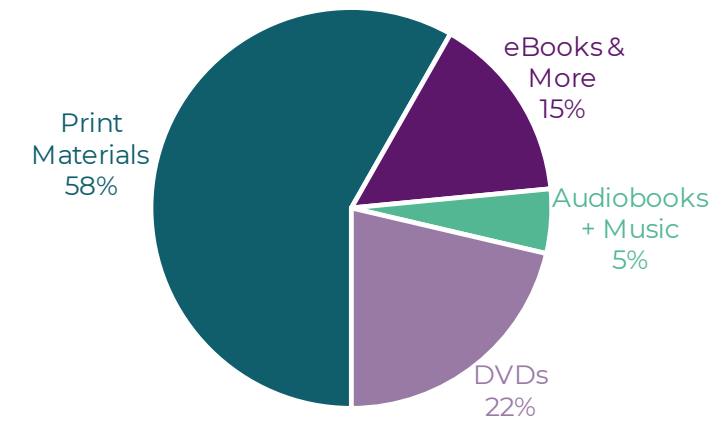
- Nearly 12,000 ebooks
- 4,200+ downloadable audiobooks
- Over 200 online magazines
- 38 online databases & tools

## Programs & Events:

349 events attended by 7,194 patrons



**Use of Collections:** 69,000+ items were checked out by patrons



## Reference Questions

Staff answered 3,800+ requests for information & technology assistance.

## Visitors

More than 43,000 patrons visited the Library.

## Meeting Rooms

Community groups used the Library's meeting room 200+ times.

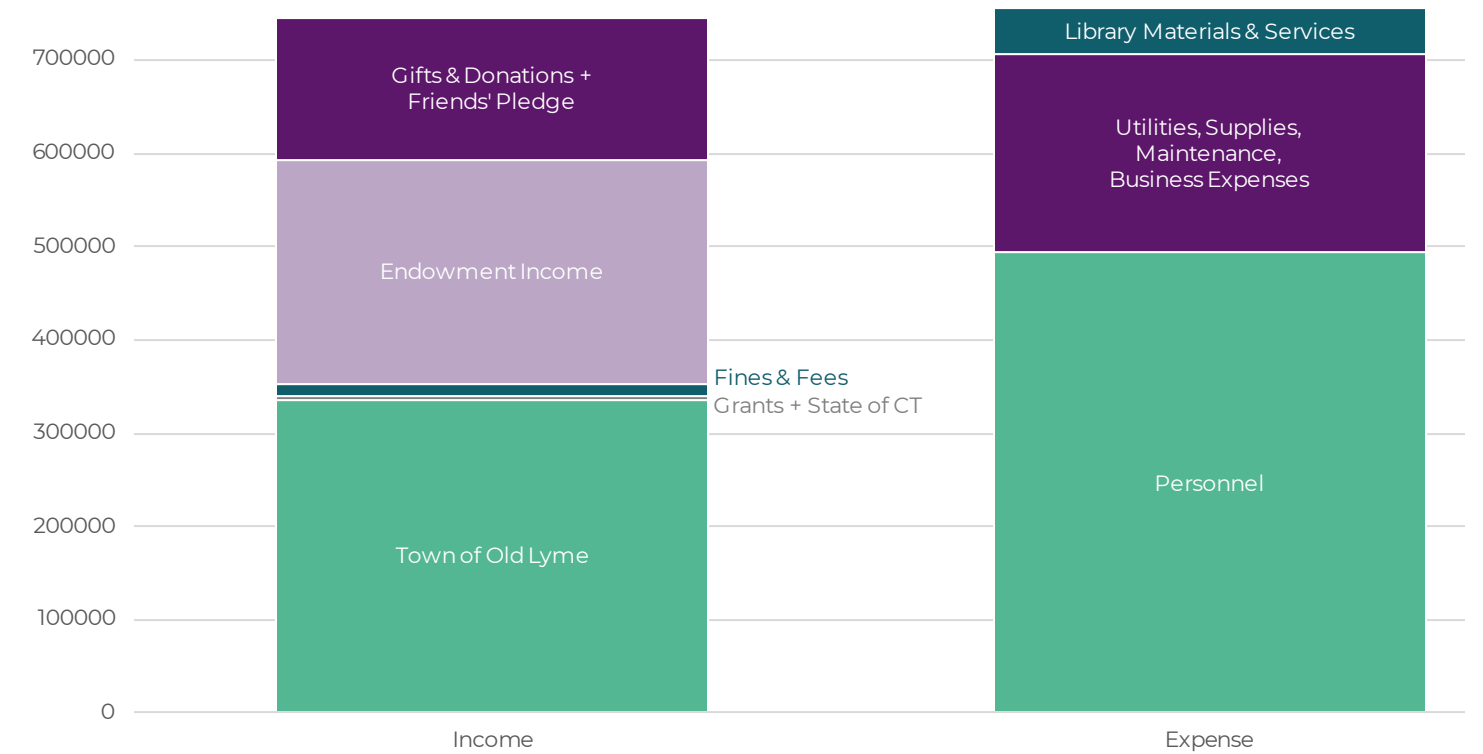
## Public Computers

The Library's 17 public computers were used nearly 9,000 times.

## Website

The Library's website was visited over 26,000 times (46,000+ page views).

# OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSE, 2018-2019



# ENDOWED FUNDS REPORT

The OL-PGN Library Endowment was established in 1899 with \$10,000 in gifts from the Ludington & Noyes families. Over the course of the 20th century, additional funds were contributed by Old Lyme residents committed to supporting the long-term success of the Library. Today, the funds comprise a variety of investments; some are restricted funds, designated to be spent on particular categories of books, materials, & services, while some are unrestricted & are used to cover a portion of annual personnel & building expenses. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, 32% of the Library's total operating budget was funded by a draw-down on the Library's Endowment. During the fiscal year, the Endowment investments generated a return of 3.4%.

# Your Support

The Library's success is directly dependent on the support of so many people. We are deeply indebted to our very active community of supporters, including:

**Volunteers:** Over 200 people worked together last year to help the Library. From those who served on the Library Board of Trustees & its committees, to The Friends & BookCellar volunteers, to countless others who lent their expertise & helping hands behind the scenes, the Library staff is grateful for your overwhelming support.

**Special Event Support:** This year, hundreds of community members contributed to the Library by supporting our special events, including Phoebe's Closet, Lunch with Luanne, & Phoebe's Birthday Candles.

**Direct Financial Support:** 55% of the Library's operating budget comes from private sources. While 32% comes from the Library Endowment, the remaining 18% comes directly from donors. This year nearly 600 people contributed to this year's Annual Fund Drive, twenty-one businesses sponsored the Library, & many more contributed to the Library's Renewal Campaign.

## 2019 Business Sponsors

<b>Coldwell Banker, Residential Brokerage Old Lyme</b>		<b>Sicuranza Electric, LLC</b>		<b>Simpson Healthcare Executives</b>	
<b>Reynolds' Subaru</b>			<b>South Lyme Scoop Shop</b>		
Laysville LLC Coffee's Country Market	Old Lyme Marketplace	Old Lyme Veterinary Hospital	The Williams School		
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Marie Abraham	AMICA Companies Foundation	G. David & Carol Baer	Marc & Nancy Bazilian
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Aetna Foundation Matching Grant	Lori & Greg Andersen	Robert & Barbara Ballard	Sue & John Beatty
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Harlen & Judith Chapman	William D. Donovan MD	Gineo et al	Tammy & Charles Hinckley
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Ms. Ruth B. Childs	Julie & Bill Dunbar		
Samuel & Elsie Childs	Bruce & Holli Dupuis		

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