

GLOUCESTER LYCEUM & SAWYER FREE LIBRARY  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020**



A year of change

# LETTER

## from the president our board of trustees

### Embracing the Unexpected

The Sawyer Free Library represents the best of our community. Free and open to all, it supports all our city's residents by connecting us with books, educational programs, learning resources, and many more services that enrich our lives.

I am honored to serve as President of the Library Board of Trustees. I started my term as President in April 2020, as COVID-19 was turning the world upside down, forcing the Board and Library staff to look at things differently. We needed to continue serving our community in the best way possible while keeping staff and patrons safe. Together we rose to the many challenges - we viewed them as opportunities to serve our community better. It was a difficult set of adaptations that the Library staff met with willingness and positivity. When the pandemic forced us to close in March, our Library staff quickly responded to the situation by enhancing the Library's remote services. Barely skipping a beat, they created a wonderful lineup of virtual programs for all ages, established helpdesks, and curated targeted information and resources for our patrons. In June, the Sawyer Free Library became one of the first libraries in the area to introduce curbside book pickup and home delivery services. As Gloucester continues to negotiate the pandemic and its aftermath, our Library will continue to adapt its services.

Through this most difficult year, the Board of Trustees made significant progress working towards our long-time goal to modernize and improve our library space. After careful review, including consideration of thoughtful input from community members, we approved the conceptual design plans to renovate and expand the main library building and restore the historic Saunders House.

# OUR MISSION

**The mission of the Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library is to be place of learning, innovation and creativity, to nurture and strengthen our community.**

This past fiscal year we also set up a new non-profit, the Sawyer Library Foundation. The Foundation is a group of community members who are generously lending their time, expertise, and resources to raise funds for our renovation and expansion plan. This dynamic and diverse group is laying the groundwork to launch the capital campaign that will transform our historic facility into a state-of-the-art library and community resource for all.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am very proud of Library Director Benedict and her dedicated staff, who demonstrated flexibility and resourcefulness during a year with unprecedented challenges. I am also grateful to our library users, community partners, and all of our generous donors.

Gratefully,



**Marion H. Sibley, President**

**Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library**

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# [ FROM the director ]

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Each fall, the Library reflects on the previous fiscal year and puts together a report to showcase our accomplishments and highlight what is new and special.

Early in the year, the Board of Trustees achieved a significant milestone in successfully completing a conceptual design for the renovation and expansion of the Library and a feasibility study for the fundraising campaign. Attendance at youth and adult programs was at an all-time high, and use of public computer workstations almost 80% above the prior year.

And then, we shifted our focus completely in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the rest of the year, we embraced a frequently changing community health context and adapted our services to bring the Library into people's homes.

While our building was closed to the public, our Library continued to serve our community every day, connecting people with information, experiences, and services. Our Curbside Pick-up service quickly became a household staple for many who borrowed from our collections of physical materials and digital devices in a no-contact way. With more time at home, people reached out for new online reading, listening, and viewing options and discovered the Library's collections of ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, and streaming video services. And our librarians were readily available by phone with guidance for a wide variety of questions.

**“ The 2025 Library will fulfill our community’s aspirations in being a center of innovation, where arts and culture thrive, where our history is cherished, where residents learn and where all feel welcomed. - Jenny Benedict, Library Director**

The outpouring of gratitude in the form of handwritten notes and emails from people living alone to those with multiple generations in the same household has been heartwarming. Our Library’s exceptional staff thrive from knowing we’ve been essential in supporting your well-being and your adjustment to remote work, distance learning, telehealth, and online community engagement.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30, but our community’s challenges have continued. No matter what the future brings, Sawyer Free Library is here for you.



**Jenny Benedict, Library Director**  
**The Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library**

The most important  
assets of any library  
goes home at night  
- the library staff

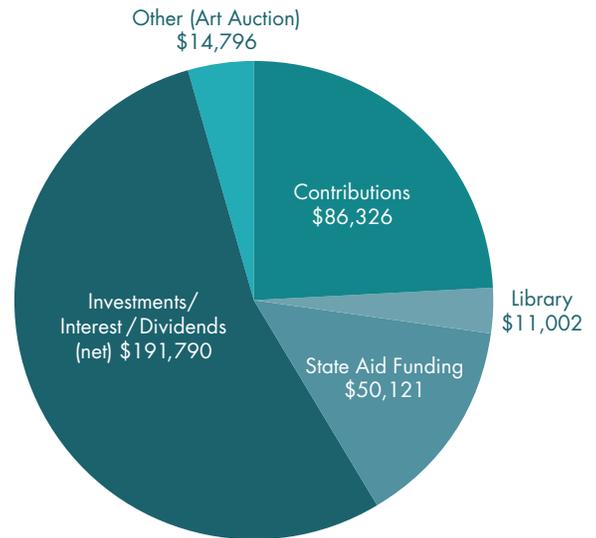
- TIMOTHY HEALY

# FINANCIAL Statements

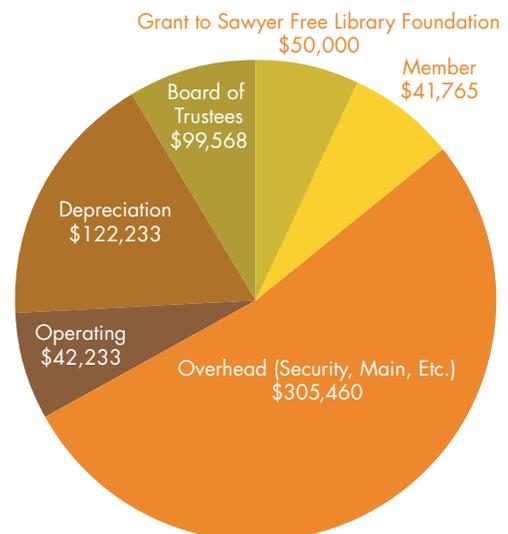
## CORPORATION PROFIT AND LOSS

	FY '20 July 1 - June 30
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	\$86,326
Library	11,002
State Aid Funding	50,121
Interest/Dividends	191,790
Other - Art Auction	14,796
	<b>\$ 354,035</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Member	\$41,765
Overhead	305,460
Depreciation	122,233
Operating	42,233
Board of Trustees	99,568
Grant to SLF	50,000
	<b>\$661,259</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$307,224)</b>
<b>Corporate Liquid Assets</b>	
Balance on 6.30.19	\$6,382,922
Withdrawals	(608,890)
Investment Return	394,657
Balance on 6.30.20	<b>\$6,168,689</b>

Income Fiscal Year 2020



Expenses Fiscal Year 2020



## NATIONAL TREND!

Americans check out over **2.1 billion** items from their public library every year. That's an average of **16** items a year for every American or **32** items a year for every card holder

## FAST FACT:

**5 billion** more people attend library programs than go to MLB (**68 million**), NFL (**17 million**) and NBA (**22 million**) games combined each year

## ACCORDING TO...

PEW research, **49%** of Americans think it is "very important" for libraries to provide free public meeting spaces, while **85%** of respondents say it is "somewhat" or "important" overall.

Circulation of physical materials:  
Adult: **100,470** (70%)  
Children & Teens: **42,960** (30%)

Circulation of physical materials:  
**123,989** (86%)  
Use of Digital Downloads:  
**20,441** (14%)

**124,398** in person visits  
**93,970** website visits

**7,499** children and their families attended **261** in-person programs  
**3,474** adults attended **228** in-person programs



\*July 2019 - March 2020

## Community Groups using the library include:

AARP Tax Preparation Assistance

Action, Inc.

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

Art Haven

Backyard Growers

Boys & Girls Scout Troops

Brownie, Daisy & Cub Scout Troops

Cape Ann Cinema showings

Cape Ann Museum

Cape Ann Savings trainings

Cape Ann Time Bank

Cape Ann YMCA

Census Volunteer training

City of Gloucester Committee Meetings

City of Gloucester Councilors constituent meetings

City of Gloucester Flu vaccine clinics

City of Gloucester Managers' meetings

Condominium Associations

Craft and Art groups

Daughters of the Revolution (DAR)

Discover Gloucester meetings

Divorce mediations

Early Intervention

Fort Archive Project

Gloucester 400 Committee meetings

Gloucester Astronomy Club

Gloucester Fire Department

Gloucester City Housing

Gloucester Public Schools

Gloucester's Council on Aging

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Healthy Gloucester Collaborative

Legal mediations

Little River Alewife Counting Training

Mediated parental visits

Music Recitals

North Shore Art Association

North Shore Gamers

North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership

North Shore Career Center trainings

Pathways for Children

Proctored tests

Reading Book Groups

Regular citizen meetings with State

Representative and State Senators

SeArts meetings

Senior Care

Hobby Clubs (e.g. Chess Club, Cribbage)

Support groups (e.g. Hoarders)

The Open Door

Wellspring House, Inc.

Writers Groups

Youth Sports Groups & Clubs meetings

# A Special Thanks!



The Friends of Sawyer Free Library is dedicated to supporting and improving the library user experience. Funds raised by membership fees, the popular annual book sale (and ongoing Sales Spot), the annual Art Auction Funds and other fundraising activities are given to SFL to be used for library programs, museum passes, and projects needed for all departments. The money and work provided by the Friends is vital to the continued success of the Library and its mission.



The Gloucester Lyceum seeks to enrich the lives of Cape Ann residents through thought-provoking and intellectually rewarding programs. Based on both ancient and American Lyceum traditions, the Gloucester Lyceum was founded in 1830 and hosted such luminaries as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Today, the Gloucester Lyceum is revived in a rapidly changing and dramatically more challenging world. We are grateful to the Gloucester Lyceum for providing people and ideas in a public forum which fosters a spirit of community and participation.

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