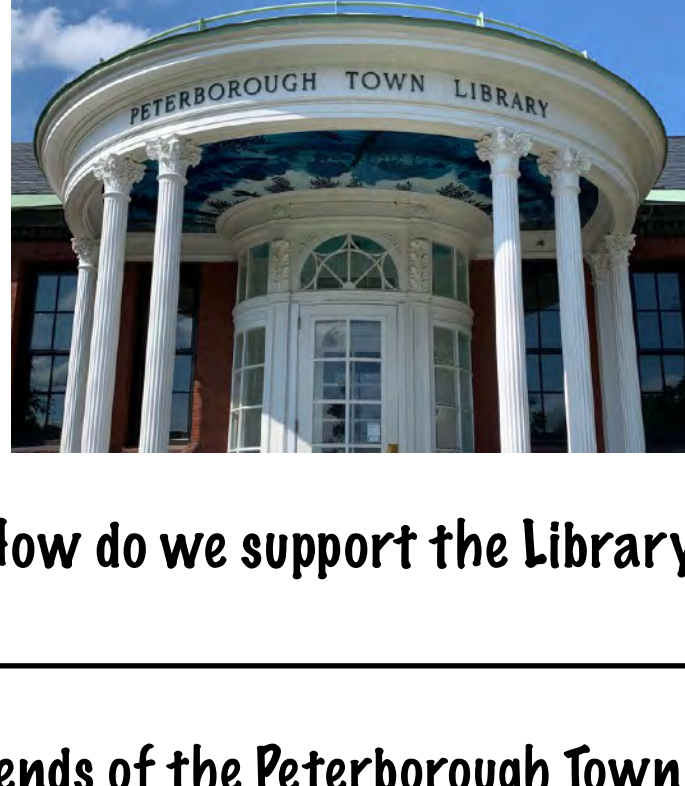


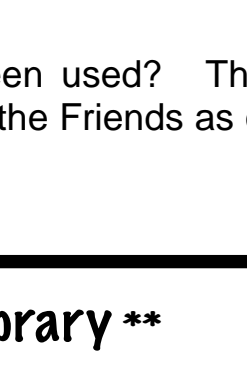
# Who are the Friends of the Peterborough Town Library?



## How do we support the Library?

### The Friends of the Peterborough Town Library

The Friends of the Peterborough Town Library are dedicated devotees and supporters of the world's oldest free public library supported by taxation. Since our inception in 1979, we have raised many thousands of dollars, primarily through annual sales of donated used books and, since 2000, through ongoing sales at the Kyes-Sage Book Shop.



These additional funds have enabled the Library to acquire much needed equipment, furnishings, and supplies, accomplish pressing repairs and renovations, and offer many extra educational and cultural programs and services to Library patrons. Most recently, the Friends contributed more than \$50,000 to the 1833 Society to support the construction of the new Library.

How much have the Friends raised, and how have the funds been used? This document will give you an idea. The approximate total of gifts from the Friends as of the end of 2023: **\$252,250.**

#### \*\* Become a Friend of the Peterborough Town Library \*\*

We invite you to join the Friends of the Peterborough Town Library, a volunteer organization formed in 1979 to further community awareness of the functions, resources, services and needs of the Library, and to foster interaction between our Library and the residents of Peterborough.

##### What do the Friends do?

- Operate the used book shop in the Kyes-Sage House
- Fund additional equipment and programs for the Library that are not included in the annual budget
- Sponsor and assist with Library functions and programs

##### Why join the Friends?

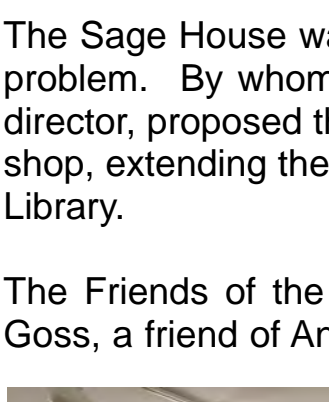
Your membership, through participation and dues, makes a real contribution to our Library services and facilities and makes a great Library even greater.

Ask a librarian for a membership form.

Member dues (tax deductible):  
 Annual Individual Membership — \$20  
 Annual Family Membership — \$30  
 Life Membership — \$500

Checks should be made payable to *Friends of the Peterborough Town Library*

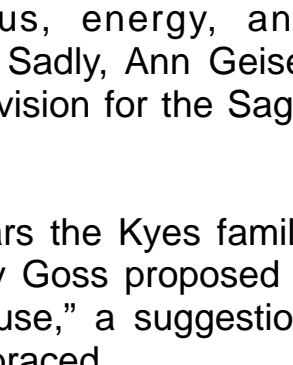
### The Saga of the Kyes-Sage House



The cottage now known as the Kyes-Sage House has a fascinating history. According to historical records, the house, a modest one-and-one-half story Carpenter Gothic cottage, was built by Stephen White in 1846. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the cottage was purchased by Winslow Kyes. The Kyes family lived there for over sixty years. Karl Summer Kyes, Winslow's son, practiced dentistry in Peterborough for sixty-one years. His office was in the Granite Block.

In 1964, Catherine Kyes Elberfeld, Karl's daughter, sold the house to Catherine Sage, who owned it for about thirty-five years.

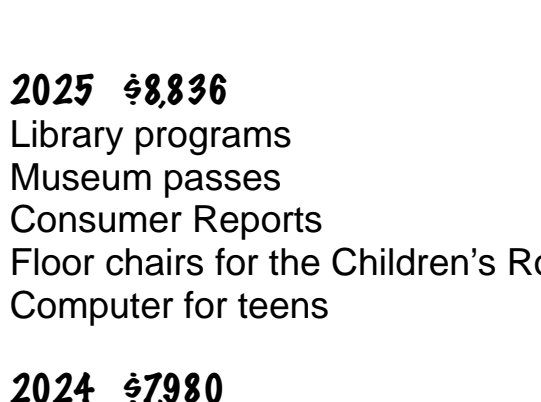
Upon Ms. Sage's death, the house was sold to the Trustees of the Peterborough Town Library for \$100,000. The purchase was made possible by a gift of this amount from Ms. Arlene Magaw, a former Library volunteer. It was the Library's pressing need for additional parking space that originally spurred the purchase, but what to do with the house itself precipitated heated controversy and even acrimony throughout Peterborough. Should the cottage be moved? Demolished? Restored?



At the annual Peterborough Town Meeting, residents voted to allow the Library Trustees to raze the building. The Friends of the Sage House called for a special town meeting to try to reverse this decision. The special town meeting was called, and the Friends presented their proposal. It was approved! The Friends agreed to raise \$50,000 for desperately-needed repairs and renovations.

The Sage House was saved! But now, the Library Trustees were faced with another problem. By whom was the house to be occupied? Ann Geisel, then the Library's director, proposed that the Friends of the Library use the Sage House as a used book shop, extending their annual used book sale into an ongoing venture in support of the Library.

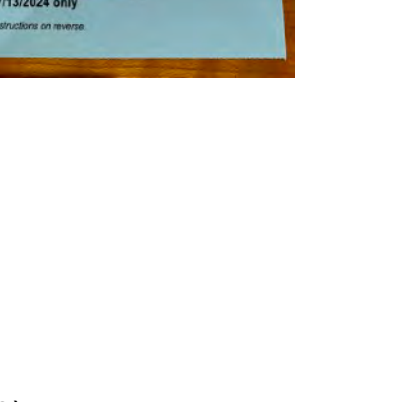
The Friends of the Sage House agreed to give it a trial run for two years. Vicky Goss, a friend of Ann Geisel, was keenly attuned to Ann's vision. Beginning in 2000, Vicky headed the "Bookworms Committee," giving the Book Shop the impetus, energy, and successful launch it needed. Sadly, Ann Geisel died before she could see her vision for the Sage House realized.



Keeping in mind the many years the Kyes family had occupied this house, Vicky Goss proposed it be called "The Kyes-Sage House," a suggestion the Library Trustees readily embraced.

The Bookworms Committee pitched in to complete the arduous task of pricing and moving over 7,000 books. The Kyes-Sage Book Shop was ready for its September 26, 2000, grand opening.

The Book Shop has been an amazing success from day one. The enthusiasm of the Bookworms Committee and the time and effort of many devoted volunteers have assured the Book Shop's continuing success.



The rescue and repurposing of the Kyes-Sage House, its conversion to a successful book shop, and the enormous amount of support the proceeds have contributed to the Peterborough Town Library are all fitting tributes to former Peterborough Librarian Ann Geisel (1978-1999) and all those who joined with her to make the project a success.

Today the Kyes-Sage House is the home of a revitalized book shop and a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system for the spectacular new Library. In 2024 the Library Trustees had the house exterior repaired and then painted with colors appropriate to the era in which it was built, turning it into an architectural showpiece for the Town. The Kyes-Sage House was added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places in 2024.

### Gifts from the Friends of the Library through the years...

**2025 \$8,836**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes  
 Consumer Reports  
 Floor chairs for the Children's Room  
 Computer for teens

**2024 \$7,980**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes  
 Quilt for a study room

**2023 \$8,300**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes

**2022 \$9,500**  
 Library programs

**2021 \$20,400**  
 Library programs  
 Contribution to the 1833 Society for the new Library (\$20,000)

**2020 \$10,106**  
 Library programs (reduced because of the pandemic)  
 Contribution to the 1833 Society for the new Library (\$10,000)



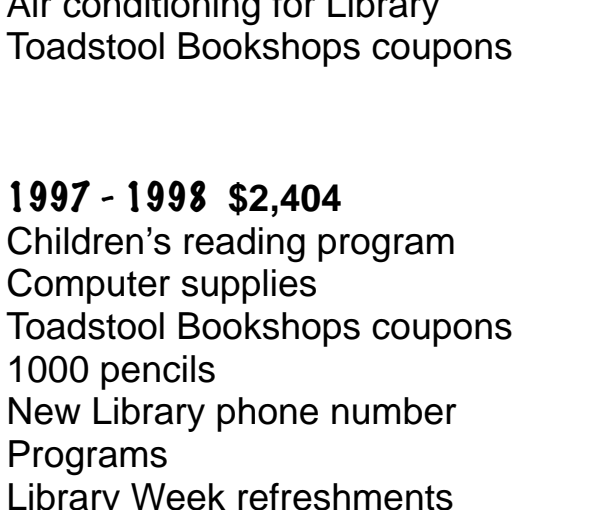
**2019 \$13,119**  
 Library programs  
 Contribution to the 1833 Society for the new Library (\$11,000)

**2017 \$5,099**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes

**2015 \$8,885**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes  
 Library shelving

**2014 \$35,486**  
 Funds to the 1833 Society for expenses to acquire the Fairpoint land (\$30,000) to expand the library parking lot  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Computer equipment  
 Library float for 275th anniversary parade

**2013 \$4,448**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes



**2009 \$11,226**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Library cleaning

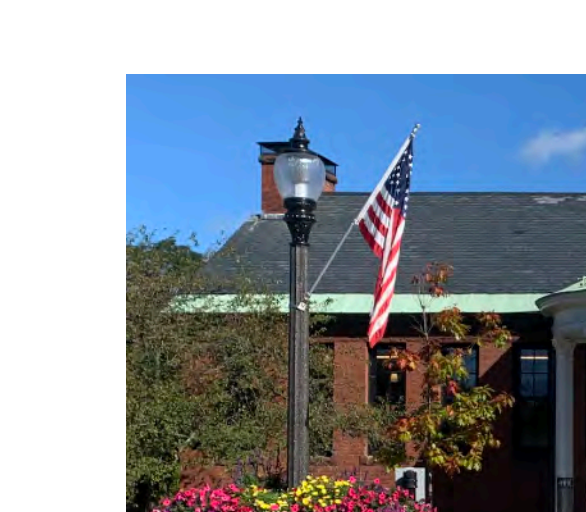
**2008 \$4,224**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Support for Library's 150th anniversary  
 Furniture

**2007 \$2,998**  
 Summer and fall reading programs  
 Book case

**2006 \$2,615**  
 Children's summer reading programs  
 Book case

**2004 \$1,653**  
 Electronics and miscellaneous needs

**2002 - 2003 \$19,927**  
 Furniture  
 Children's summer reading program  
 Computer equipment  
 Painting  
 Supplies



**1999 - 2000 \$7,568**  
 Children's reading program  
 Air conditioning for Library  
 Toadstool Bookshops coupons

**1997 - 1998 \$2,404**  
 Children's reading program  
 Computer supplies  
 Toadstool Bookshops coupons  
 1000 pencils  
 New Library phone number  
 Programs  
 Library Week refreshments

**1995 \$1,706**  
 Fax machine and dedicated line  
 Furniture  
 Contribution for *Monadnock Memories* program

**1994 \$735**  
 Travel expenses for librarian to attend conference  
 20-foot ladder  
 Folding tables

**1993 \$6,075**  
 New carpet  
 Vacuum cleaner  
 Computer equipment

**1992 \$981**  
 Kitchen remodel

**1989 \$1,771**  
 Computer equipment

**1987 \$2,516**  
 Circulation software  
 Projector extension cord

**1985 \$2,554**  
 Intercom phone system  
 Lectern for speakers

**1983 \$2,595**  
 Computer equipment

**1980 \$1,985**  
 Paint ceiling  
 Meeting room remodel

**2018 \$12,291**  
 Library programs  
 Contribution to the 1833 Society for the new library (\$10,000)

**2016 \$5,142**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes

**2015 \$8,885**  
 Library programs  
 Museum passes  
 Library shelving

**2014 \$35,486**  
 Funds to the 1833 Society for expenses to acquire the Fairpoint land (\$30,000) to expand the library parking lot  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Computer equipment  
 Library float for 275th anniversary parade

**2013 \$4,448**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes

**2012 \$4,128**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes

**2011 \$4,628**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Kyes-Sage marble bench

**2010 \$5,898**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Library technology updates

**2009 \$11,226**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Library cleaning

**2008 \$4,224**  
 Reading programs  
 Museum passes  
 Support for Library's 150th anniversary  
 Furniture

**2007 \$2,998**  
 Summer and fall reading programs  
 Book case

**2006 \$2,615**  
 Children's summer reading programs  
 Book case

**2005 \$2,296**  
 Summer reading programs

**2003 \$6,092**  
 Landscaping  
 Kyes-Sage improvements  
 Children's summer reading programs  
 Computer equipment

**2001 - 2002 \$7,401**  
 Children's reading program  
 Toadstool Bookshops coupons  
 Computer equipment  
 Lectern with sound system  
 Furniture  
 Donation to children's room  
 Window shades  
 National Library Week donation

**2000 - 2001 \$6,229**  
 Children's reading program  
 Office furniture  
 Computer equipment  
 Tape recorder  
 Wooden cabinets  
 Refrigerator  
 National Library Week donation

**1998 - 1999 \$1,264**  
 Children's reading program  
 Toadstool Bookshops coupons  
 Programs  
 Lectern microphone  
 Computer equipment

**1996 - 1997 \$7,182**  
 Children's reading program  
 Computer supplies  
 Lapel microphone  
 Roof repair  
 Toadstool Bookshops coupons  
 Programs  
 Library upholstery and carpet cleaning  
 Window shades  
 Library Week refreshments  
 Recorded books

**1995 \$1,706**  
 Fax machine and dedicated line  
 Furniture  
 Contribution for *Monadnock Memories* program

**1994 \$735**  
 Travel expenses for librarian to attend conference  
 20-foot ladder  
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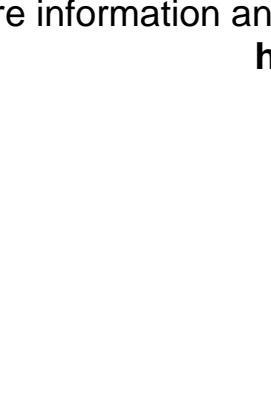
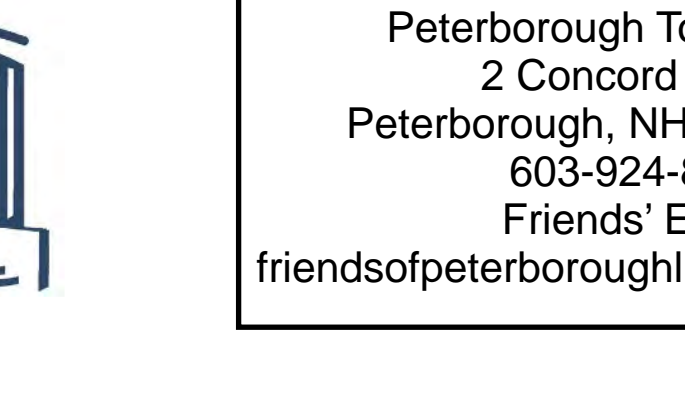
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 Lectern for speakers

**1983 \$2,595**  
 Computer equipment

**1980 \$1,985**  
 Paint ceiling  
 Meeting room remodel



The Peterborough Town Library, established in 1833, is the oldest free public library supported by taxation in the world.



Peterborough Town Library  
 2 Concord Street  
 Peterborough, NH 03458-1511  
 603-924-8040  
 Friends' Email:  
[friendsofpeterboroughlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpeterboroughlibrary@gmail.com)

For more information and access to Library resources, see the Library's website at <http://peterboroughtownlibrary.org/>