

GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY | DECEMBER 2013

Public libraries as quiet, staid reading rooms are fading fast. Public libraries are becoming community hubs—places people come to interact, try a new skill, take a lifelong learning course, or print an item in 3D. In short, places to **participate**.

Traditional library services are still very much alive at the Groton Public Library but **the trend in libraries is to expand into entirely new areas of service**.

We turned in this direction last year, kicking off lifelong learning courses, starting a Seed Library, hosting Minecraft Nights, and increasing the number of interactive programs we offer. People don't want to just sit in the audience and listen—they want to interact and participate!

NEW SERVICES COMING IN 2014

3D Printer The Library will be purchasing a 3D printer! If you would like to help us select, purchase, install, and/or run the 3D

PARTICIPATE AT YOUR LIBRARY

printer, please contact Jeff Pike, Technology Librarian, at jpik@mpl.org.

Winter Reading Programs

For Teens: *Reading is Snow Much Fun* (Dec. 21, 2013–Jan. 21, 2014) For Kids Grades K–5: *Chill Out and Read* (Feb. 1–28)

Adult Summer Reading

Why should kids have all the fun? Sign up this summer and participate in events, earn prizes, and connect with others through reading!

iPads for Teens We will be adding two iPads for teens to use in the library to access educational apps.

OverDrive Advantage Program

With OverDrive Advantage, we will be able to purchase additional copies of downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks just for Groton residents, which will reduce wait times for popular titles.

“Libraries are no longer grocery stores—places to come and get ingredients; they are now kitchens—where people come to create, share ideas, and innovate.”

—Maxine Bleweis, Director
Westport Public Library

Participate @ GPL

Want to give back to the community? Why not share your special skills, interests, or knowledge with others through the library? Want to teach a course? Run a workshop? Lead a foreign language conversation group? Start a craft club? We welcome your ideas!

Is there an event, service, or workshop you would like to see held at the Groton Public Library? Please let us know! Contact us at 978-448-8000 or info@gpl.org.

Thank You

Thank you for your support of the Groton Public Library with your tax dollars and through your generous gifts to the GPL Endowment Trust. Without the financial support of the Endowment, we would never be able to offer so many services, programs, and resources for your interest and enjoyment.

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Dear Groton Neighbor,

Greetings! We offer this report to you at the end of the Endowment Trust's 17th year for three reasons:

- ◆ To provide an update on the financial health of the Trust,
- ◆ To share how the Trust benefits the library, and
- ◆ To request your continued support.

Financial Health. The financial statement of the Trust as of June 30, 2013, shows assets totaling \$1,928,562. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for special projects and services for the Groton Public Library. \$54,785 was expended during Fiscal Year 2013, and \$60,554 has already been approved for FY 2014.

Library Benefits. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, but more importantly, we hope you have enjoyed one or more of the many terrific programs, services, or collection enhancements the Groton Public Library has been able to provide because of the Endowment.

Continued Support. The Endowment Trust was established in 1996 by people like you—generous citizens and businesses in Groton and surrounding towns. The Groton Public Library cannot continue to excel without the support of its community. We wish to thank all past contributors and to invite everyone to support this vital fund.

Please help us ensure our enduring **treasure**, the Groton Public Library, with your generous support.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

The Groton Public Library Endowment Trustees

Connie Keeran Lapres, Chair

Edward Strachan, Treasurer

David Alexander

Kristen von Campe, Library Trustee

Vanessa Abraham, Library Director

Complete financial reports are available at the library.

Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and corporations who made gifts to the GPL Endowment Fund July 2012–September 2013.

Patricia and Mike Aha	Maureen's Friends from Starwood Hotels
Maria and Allen Albright	Patricia and Robert McCauley
Kathleen and Randall Barron	Agnes McKinney
Pat and Len Bennett	Katherine Messenger and Will Wright
Susan and Thomas Boggiano	Mary and Michael Metzger
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Anne Marie Kelly	
Barbara and John Kenney	
Connie and Ted Lapres	
Sue and Bob Lotz	
Deborah and Scott MacDonald	
Duane Matters	

INTERVIEW WITH NEW GPL ENDOWMENT TRUSTEE DAVID ALEXANDER



David Alexander is the managing director of Alexander Advisors, LLC, in Harvard. David also serves on the board of North Middlesex Savings Bank as Audit Chairman and is a member of several other community boards. Locally, he has coached youth soccer. He lives in Groton with his wife Lucy and their two children.

How long have you lived in Groton?
26 years.

How has the Groton Public Library made a difference in your life?

My wife and I often brought our children to the library when they were growing up. We appreciated the wonderful collections, programs, and library staff available to us.

Weren't you involved with the GPL Endowment before?
Yes, I did fundraising when the Endowment was just getting started. We were very lucky to have a donor who matched 50 cents on every dollar raised. That helped a lot.

What brings you back to the GPL Endowment now as a Trustee?

I want to give back to the community and the public library is the centerpiece of any community. When I was growing up, I used the public library all the time. I have always had a connection with libraries.

What strengths do you bring to the GPL Endowment Board?

I bring a lot of financial experience and expertise. For over 20 years, I have provided financial, tax, estate, investment, and small business consulting to a wide variety of clients.

Why is the GPL Endowment Trust important? Why is it important to support local public libraries?

It takes a group effort to improve communities and I want to do my part. Supporting libraries is just like supporting schools to educate children—it benefits everyone in society, both now and in the future. Libraries are valuable resources that enrich communities and make life better for everyone.

Honoring Maureen Bascom

Maureen and her husband Brad purchased a home in Groton in 2007 when their son Alex was six months old. They chose Groton for its historic charm, open spaces, and strong school system. They had no family ties in Groton, and Maureen reached out to other mothers to socialize and provide play dates for her son. Maureen was soon part of a community of mothers who began visiting the library together from the time their children were babies. The 'Moms Group' flourished over the years in large part because of all the wonderful programs the library offers young children. Maureen would often reach out to the group to let everyone know that she and Alex would be at Tales & Tunes or story-time. The Groton Public Library became a sanctuary for the group of new mothers just getting started on the road of motherhood.

Maureen believed reading to her young child every day was one of the best things she could do to foster an interest in books and to advance his education. Their family tradition was to read at least three library books



Maureen and her son Alex. The pair were often found in the Children's Room selecting books to read together.

every night at bedtime. Her loving spirit will live on through the generous gifts that were made in her memory to the Groton Public Library's Children's Room and the Groton Public Library Endowment Fund.

Building Readers

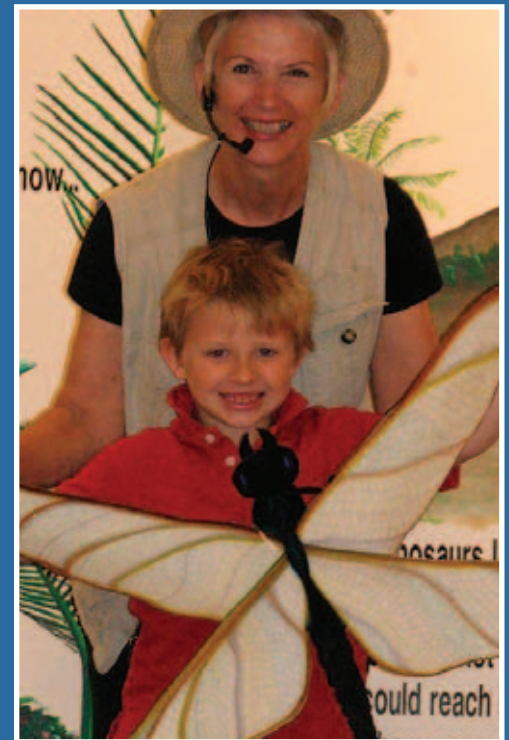


BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Every year since 2008, the Endowment has helped foster a closer relationship between the Groton Public Library and Groton's elementary schools by supporting one field trip for each school class to visit the library. Our Children's Library Staff introduces each class to the Children's Room, offers story-times and activities, and helps them find books and resources they can use for class assignments. Teachers tell us they look forward to this trip every year. This past year, 25 classes with 518 students visited the library.

Above: First graders from Swallow Union give their trip to the Groton Public Library a big cheer.

Left: Geri Perry helps students from Swallow Union navigate the stacks in the Children's Room. Photos by Dianne Bunis.



BANNER YEAR FOR SUMMER READING

2013 was an outstanding year for Summer Reading, as 574 kids participated in the program!

One popular change this year was letting parents and children set their own summer reading goals. Another was adding a bingo card of activities to encourage kids to use the library in new ways, such as checking out an audiobook or reading a Caldecott or Newbery Medal winner. Parents responded positively to this change: "The bingo was a great way to have

kids explore the library and try out new experiences there."

The Summer Reading Program finale featured the Tanglewood Marionettes, which drew a crowd of 225 people! In addition to the finale (and ice cream social), the Endowment also funded several other special events for the "Dig Into Reading" Summer Reading Program: family concerts, live animal shows, a magic show, and a theater performance.

The Endowment Trust funded a visit from intrepid fossil hunter Paulette Morin who presented a dinosaur program for a "Dig Into Reading" special event.



Young people are incredibly curious, creative, and innovative and they love opportunities to make and do things for themselves. By providing funding for a large variety of activities and events, the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust allows us to respond to our young people's need to explore a variety of artistic, educational, creative, and social opportunities.

ENGAGING TEENS



Some of this year's special programs included: building terrariums, *Tokyo Heist* author Diana Renn, "CSI: Groton," Crystal Singing Bowls, a pottery workshop, henna tattoos, duct tape art, a 3D printing demonstration, monotype printmaking, chocolate workshop, graffiti art, and an ice cream social for the "Beneath the Surface" Summer Reading Program finale.



Top: Participants admire one of the finished clay bowls they made.

Middle left: Grace is all smiles while getting her henna tattoo.

Middle right: Summer reading raffle winner Emma receives her prize from YA Librarian Deb Dowson.

Bottom: Groton Police Detective Robert Breault demonstrates during "CSI Groton."

Five clubs meet at least monthly throughout the year: "Hot Books, Hot Chocolate!" Book Club, Anime & Manga Club, Magic the Gathering Club, Minecraft Club, and the Young Adult Advisory Council. There are also drop-in "Llama Lounges" for teens on school half-days and regular YA Movie & Pizza Nights. All help create and invite a vibrant teen community at the Groton Public Library.

Building Shared Experiences



Events and activities are planned each year to delight, enrich, inform, and entertain adults in Groton. We wanted to expand our offerings in 2013 and we succeeded! We offered **25%** more adult programs over last year and saw a **41%** increase in program attendance! If you would like to stay up-to-date on library happenings, please contact us at info@gpl.org or 978-448-8000 to sign up for our bi-weekly email newsletter, "Check It Out."

Some of the special programs offered this year: talks from authors Ted Reinstein, Dan Shaughnessy, and Archer Mayor; a local authors book fair; cooking and canning classes; a painting in pastels workshop by Gregory Maichack; a Delvena Theatre Company presentation; Native American performer Annawon Weeden; and an introduction to Indian literature.

MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM GROWS

Each year, the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust provides discounted and free passes to 25 area attractions, including parks, museums, animal sanctuaries, and interactive science centers. This past year, library patrons saved \$30,508 by using the discounted passes for a combined total of 1,315 visits. How? Regular admission to the Museum of Science for a family of four would cost \$82. With the discounted

library pass, the family would pay only \$28, for a savings of \$54. The same family would save \$57 off the price of regular admission at Plimoth Plantation.

The five most popular passes this year were: Boston's Museum of Science, the New England Aquarium, the Discovery Museums in Acton, the Butterfly Place in Westford, and the Museum of Fine Arts. Each pass was used more

The GPL Seed Lending Library was newly established this year to collect and share seeds cultivated by and for area residents. Here's how it works: take home some of the library's seeds and plant them. Later, after enjoying the harvest, let your best plants go to seed. Then, save the seeds and return some to the library to replenish our stock for next year. *Watch for special Seed Library and gardening-related events in 2014!*

Lifelong Learning Courses. The library offered several courses on a variety of topics this year: Justice, Art, Astronomy, Transcendentalism, Film & Fiction, TED Talks, Great Decisions, and Memoir Writing. There were other continuing lifelong learning opportunities as well: a Great Books Discussion Group, GPL Book Group, GPL Mystery Book Group, Spanish and French Language Conversation Groups, and access to Universal Class online.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS IN 2014

Delvena Theatre Company presents
"Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks," February 2.
Great Decisions 2014 with Tom Lamont, April–May.
Poet & Jazz Vocalist Charles Coe, April 9.
Irish Music with "Two Old Friends," September 23.
Local Authors Book Fair, November 16.



than 100 times!

This year, the Endowment funded new passes to Old Sturbridge Village and Manchester, New Hampshire's Currier Museum of Art and See Science & Lego Center as well as a second set of passes for the Museum of Science and the New



England Aquarium.

For more information about the pass program, visit gpl.org and click on **Museum Passes**. Passes can be reserved up to three months in advance of your visit.

Groton READS (& WRITES)

“Thank you for the greatest opportunity of my life, being involved with the writers group of Groton.”

—Tammy Ladd, in a May 20, 2013 letter, about her experience in Groton READS & WRITES

The new “AND WRITES” component this year was a big hit! Dozens of local writers came together, as they attended workshops, shared their stories, read samples of their writing, gave and received feedback. Participants told us they didn’t want the program to end!

SAVE THE DATE:

Barbara Shapiro will be at the Groton Public Library on Tuesday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m.

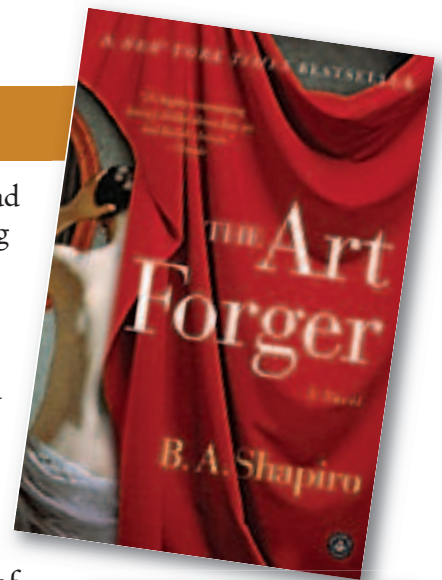
Look for other 2014 Groton READS events coming February–April!

The book selected was *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King, about King’s life as an author. We held two premier author events, with Laura Moriarty, author of *The Chaperone*, and Mary Johnson, author of *An Unquenchable Thirst*. Mary Johnson not only shared stories about her 20 years working as a nun for Mother Teresa’s Missionaries

of Charity, but she also led a fantastic memoir writing workshop for several delighted participants.

Please join us for Groton READS 2014, as we read and celebrate *The Art Forger: A Novel* by Barbara Shapiro.

Description: On March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth today over \$500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history and Claire Roth, a struggling young artist with her own scandalous past, is about to discover that there’s more to this crime than meets the eye.

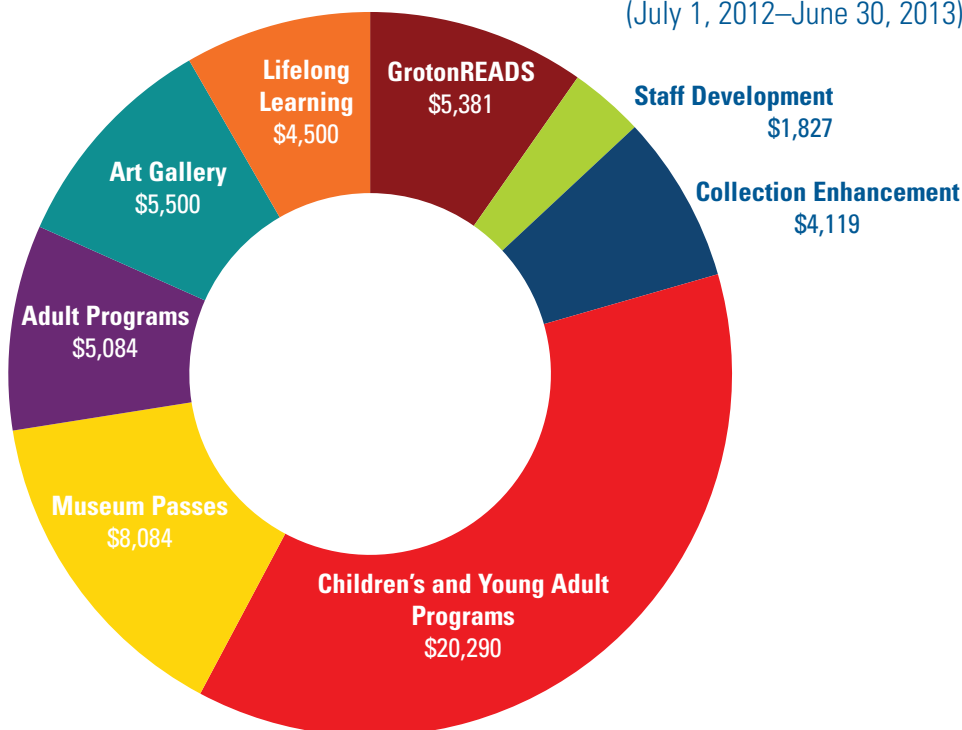


The Art Forger is a clever and gripping story. ... Just like a fine painting, this is a many-layered literary thriller about love, betrayal, and authenticity. Shapiro builds the story with pitch-perfect suspense and plot twists that you don't see coming. ... A masterpiece!

—IndieNext

PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE ENDOWMENT TRUST

(July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013)



HONORING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gifts given in honor of a loved one are a thoughtful way to celebrate an important person in your life. Each donation represents a caring tribute to the person in whose name the gift was made, and helps to perpetuate that person’s interest in and love of the library and its abundant offerings. This past year, gifts were made in honor of Owen Smith Shuman’s retirement, in memory of Dr. Everett Arthur Garvin, and in appreciation of library staff.

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

P.O. Box 401

Groton, MA 01450

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Cover image of library by Bob Lotz.

Art GalleryNEWS

This past year six exhibits were held in the Owen Smith Shuman Art Gallery:

- ◆ A commemorative exhibit, "A Baker's Dozen," to celebrate Library Director Owen Smith Shuman's retirement.
- ◆ A Groton-Dunstable Regional High School student show, "Dreams."
- ◆ "A Good Read," a solo show of still lifes celebrating books and writing by Maine artist B. St. Marie Nelson.
- ◆ "FACES," an exhibit of 16 artists whose work was informed by human physiognomy.
- ◆ "Edmund C. Tarbell: Works from the Tarbell Charitable Trust" displayed paintings by this West Groton-born artist who rose to international fame at the beginning of the 20th century and was a founding member of the Boston School of Painting. Mary Minifie, a Groton artist and a current member of the Guild of Boston Artists, presented a talk on Tarbell and the Boston School at the opening reception.

"A Flock of Days," featuring the bright and lively colors in paint and print from artists Pamela Lawson and Heather Lenz, is on display now. Future shows include a Groton-Dunstable High School student show in January/February and an integrated display of art and poetry for National Poetry Month in April.

Thanks to our talented Curator, Deborah Santoro, for orchestrating such outstanding shows for the library.



Top: *Night Sounds*, monotype by Pamela Lawson.

Bottom: *Superimposition 2*, painting by Heather Lenz.

