

# GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure

# 2015

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

## New Technology, Survey Results, and Statewide Rankings Show Endowment's Impact

### 3D Printing

FIRST IN THE WORLD! This year, GPL took delivery of a production 3D printer, the Mark One, from a new Massachusetts company,



Markforged - and we were the first library in the world to get one! Not only

is it an innovative device, but it's also a beautifully designed piece of equipment manufactured locally in Somerville. What sets the Mark One apart from its competitors is its ability to embed into its printed products strengthening materials made of fiberglass, Kevlar, or carbon fiber, so it can print finished products (not just prototypes), making it ready for true manufacturing.

To print something in 3D, please contact Technology Librarian Jeff Pike at [jpike@gpl.org](mailto:jpike@gpl.org) or 978-448-8000.

### Self-Service Scanning & Faxing

GPL has a new Library Documents Station from Envisionware that makes scanning and faxing quick



and easy, thanks to the generosity of the Endowment. You might ask, "Do people still fax?" and the answer is YES! Medical records, legal documents, loan applications, student transcripts, and other official documents still need to be faxed. We provide this service every day at GPL. This machine also features a very fast scanner with automatic document feeder (which holds up to 50 sheets of paper). Scan pages and save them to your smartphone, tablet, flash drive, or cloud storage, print them, or email them to yourself.

### Survey Results

Groton residents rated GPL very highly in this year's town-wide survey, with 98% of respondents rating GPL as excellent (72%) or good (26%). The Endowment's impact can be seen in how highly library users rated the following services:

*Borrowing museum passes*

*Attending library programs*

*Summer & winter reading programs for kids & teens*

*Lifelong learning for adults*

*Children's programs*

There were many appreciative comments about other programs or services the Endowment helped make possible, such as Groton Reads, art exhibits, website design, downloadable e-books, and new technology.

### Statewide Rankings

GPL was not only highly rated by residents; it also earns top rankings compared to other libraries in the state. For the 51 Massachusetts town libraries serving a population 10,000-14,999, Groton ranked:

*FIRST in total attendance at Young Adult Programs (1,950)*

*3rd in total number of Young Adult Programs (100)*

*5th in total number of programs (522)*

*8th in number of children who participated in the 2014 Summer Reading Program (573)*

*8th in total attendance at all programs (10,256)*

FY14 data

*Inset photo: Markforged Mark One*

*Photo (left): Envisionware Library Documents Station*

# THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and corporations who made gifts to the GPL Endowment Trust from September 2014 through September 2015.

Dear Groton Neighbor,

## Greetings!

We offer this report to you at the end of the GPL Endowment Trust's 18th year to share the many ways the Trust benefits the library, to provide an update on the financial health of the Trust, and to ask for your continued support.

**Library Benefits.** We hope you enjoy this newsletter, but more importantly, we hope you have enjoyed one or more of the many delightful programs, enhanced services, or special equipment the Groton Public Library has been able to offer because of the Endowment.

**Financial Health.** The financial statement of the Trust as of June 30, 2015, shows assets totaling \$2,298,962. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for special programs and services for the library. \$61,928 was expended for grants during Fiscal Year 2015, and \$62,150 has already been approved for FY2016.

**Continued Support.** The GPL Endowment Trust was established in 1998 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 everyone who has contributed in the past and to invite everyone to support this vital fund.

It's easy and convenient to donate. Please visit our website at [www.gplendowment.org](http://www.gplendowment.org) and click on ways to give, or use the enclosed envelope for drop off at the library or mail.

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

## Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

The Groton Public Library Endowment Board of Trustees:

Connie Keeran, *Chair*

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## Honoring Family and Friends

Gifts to the GPL Endowment Trust are a thoughtful way to honor a person who has been special or important to you. Each donation signifies a caring tribute to the person in whose name the gift is made, and helps to perpetuate that person's interest in and love of the library and its abundant offerings of programs, services, and collections.

[www.gplendowment.org](http://www.gplendowment.org)

Complete financial reports are available at the library.

**Dedication:**

ELIZABETH R. STONE



This newsletter is dedicated to Elizabeth “Betty” Stone, long-time Groton resident and great patron of the Groton Public Library.

An avid reader, Betty visited the library every week. Staff would look forward to seeing her, always assured of a warm smile, a kind and thoughtful inquiry, and an amusing or insightful comment about what she’d been reading. Betty instilled in her children – and, in more recent years, grandchildren – a love of reading, libraries, and learning, and she brought them to the library often.

Betty was not only a treasured patron; she was also a strong supporter of the library. But while Betty’s legacy to the library is both substantial and enduring, it is her beloved family that is her greatest legacy. Betty was a loving and devoted wife to Al, an exceptional mother to Susan, Karen, David, Steven, and Debbie, and a wonderful grandmother to 14 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Betty was a caring and gracious lady who touched the lives of all who knew her. She was a truly special person and will be deeply missed.



## *Downton Abbey Afternoon Teas*

by Lisa Baylis,  
Head of Circulation Services

We hosted a new event this year, *Downton Abbey Afternoon Teas*, for fans of the popular BBC series to experience a formal English-style tea while watching previous episodes in advance of the premiere of the new season.

This event was a five-week series of two-hour formal English-style afternoon teas while guests watched the past season of *Downton Abbey* together. Ladies and gentlemen sat at one of the five beautifully set tables, with pretty tablecloths, fine china, silverware, and printed menus. Each table was served homemade scones with butter and/or jam, along with fresh brewed tea in teapots (kept warm with tea cozies). Many ladies dressed for the occasion with elegant hats, smart attire, and dress gloves. During intermission, guests enjoyed *Downton Abbey* trivia

games and learning historical etiquette from the time, such as how society women of that era flirted using their gloves by placing them in certain positions at the table. The last tea was held just before PBS debuted the new season on *Masterpiece Theatre*.

It was an absolutely delightful series, and compliments from guests were both many and effusive, with one guest stating that, “This was the best program the library has ever done!”

**Join us this year  
as we prepare for the final season!**  
“Downton Abbey Afternoon Teas” begin Friday, November 20, at 2 pm. Registration is required, as space is limited to 20 guests. Please sign up for each tea you plan to attend. Come to one or to all!







Craft Time



Kids lining up for the bus

# READING & IMAGINATION ARE SUPERPOWERS!

by Karen Dunham, Head of Children's Services



Karen reads to visiting school children

## Did you know?

Studies have shown that students who don't read over the summer lose ground academically.

One of the most important things parents and caregivers can do for their children is visit the library and join the summer reading program.

Encourage kids to read about whatever interests them. It can be a challenge to find books at the appropriate reading level, so ask a librarian for help.

## Summer Reading Program

The theme of this year's event was **Every Hero Has a Story**, which was a huge hit as superheroes are a favorite topic among the nearly 600 children who joined the program. The incentives helped keep participants motivated to read all summer.

The Hero theme included many exciting and diverse programs:

- Mary Jo Maichack's *Stories & Songs of Heroes*
- *Pet Partners*® Registered Therapy Team with Owner Julie Freyermuth and dog hero, Norbert
- *Everyday Heroes* with Storyteller Diane Edgecomb
- *A Star Wars Symposium*
- *Batman's Secret Tools* Workshop with Little Door Education
- Singer Steve Blunt & Author Marty Kelley, *The Original Dynamic Duo*
- *Superhero Training with Jungle Jim*

Tanglewood Marionettes thrilled an audience of over 200 with their production of *The Dragon King* for the Summer Reading Program Grand Finale. Other special events included "Ecology of Sound" with Musician Ricardo Frota, Singer Alastair Mooock, a Creature Teachers Live Animal Show, and Jack the LEGO® Maniac.

## Children's Programs

This year, more than 3,500 kids attended over 250 programs!

We offered our 2nd Annual Winter Reading Program for kids in grades K-5 with the theme, **Rock Out and Read**, with Pete the Cat artwork by Illustrator James Dean. Ninety-eight children signed up and those who read 4 books during the month of February received a reading certificate of accomplishment, small prizes, and a raffle ticket for a grand prize of a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

Other special programs included:

- *Preparing and Growing Food* with Jodie Gilson for kids ages 8-11
- *Tales & Tunes* monthly music program for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- Weekly drop-in craft for preschoolers

Nearly 400 children in 18 elementary school classes from Florence Roche and Swallow Union visited the library to get library cards and to learn about the library and its resources.

### 2015 Survey Answer to 'Where Does GPL Excel?'

"Programs for children and ease of use – website. I also enjoy use of passes"

Left: Pet Partners featuring Norbert



Right: Creature Teachers Snake presentation



# TEEN PROGRAMS

by Deborah Dowson, Young Adult Librarian

## Summer Reading Program

Zombies and ghosts and a host of other programs filled our **Escape the Ordinary** summer reading schedule of events this year. Ghost hunting, paper circuitry, robotics, gelatin printmaking, and character sculpting were a few of the unusual programs the young adults enjoyed. Many of these programs were suggested by the Young Adult Advisory Council that meets monthly to advise the Young Adult Librarian. Summer is a perfect time for reading, and the wonderful prizes provided by the Endowment motivated 246 participants to read and record 1,642 books.

### 2015 Survey Answer to 'Where Does GPL Excel?'

*"Reading incentives for teens. My boys increased their reading for the incentives, but kept reading after the program ended."*

## Winter Reading Program & Other Events

Our 2nd Winter Reading Program, **Warm Up to a Good Book!**, really caught on with 70 young adults recording 364 books, an increase of 52% in participation and 63% in books read over last year. Many young adults visit the library regularly throughout the year to take part in workshops, programs, and ongoing clubs such as the robotics club that meets every other Thursday evening. The Llama Lounge has become so popular that close to 100 students make use of the program rooms at the library on middle school half-days. The Young Adult library community remains strong and once again we can boast of having the most attendance in the state for libraries our size, an accomplishment that is directly related to the support we enjoy from the GPL Endowment Trust.



Robotics Club



Magic the Gathering club

## MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

The GPL Endowment Trust generously provides 20 free or discounted passes to area attractions, where you can experience the magic of butterflies in flight at the Butterfly Place, be astonished by the world-famous glass flowers at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, or delight in the penguins and sea life at the New England Aquarium. This year, we added the new Harvard Art Museums to our offerings.

Museum passes were used 1,098 times last year, saving our patrons a total of \$27,809! The five most popular passes: New England Aquarium, Museum of Science, Museum of Fine Arts, Discovery Museums, and the Butterfly Place.

In GPL's 2015 community survey, 'borrow museum passes' ranked as the third highest reason people used the library, after borrowing print and non-print materials. Several respondents answered 'museum passes' when asked, "Where does the GPL excel?"

A complete list of passes is available online at [gpl.org](http://gpl.org). Passes may be reserved online up to three months in advance with your library card number and PIN.

**Did you know that GPL patrons borrowed over 200,000 items last year?**



# ADULT PROGRAMS

Nearly 3,000 people attended our adult programs last year, a 41% increase over the previous year!

## ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM

by Lisa Baylis,  
Head of Circulation Services

It was the **Summer of Heroes** as the 2nd Annual Adult Summer Reading Program celebrated literary heroes as well as the everyday heroes in our lives.

We also introduced an exciting “Read Across the U.S.A. Superhero Challenge!” Several adventurous readers took on the additional challenge of making their way across the U.S.A. by reading books representing adjoining states. It started some wonderful conversations at the Circulation Desk, such as when one patron said, “I’m stuck on South Dakota!” and another patron responded, “Have you tried...?” One patron read a book from every state, and another took on the challenge to read across the world now that she’d completed the United States!

Over 100 adults signed up, read 881 books, and earned 67 gift cards for their personal heroes. Two lucky readers won grand prizes of \$100 to Gibbet Hill and \$100 to Filho’s Cucina. The program concluded with an Ice Cream Social where participants enjoyed a spirited discussion about their favorite reads over the summer.



Claire Messud

### Author Events

This year, we hosted Claire Messud, author of the *New York Times*-bestselling book, *The Emperor's Children*, and *The Woman Upstairs*, a 2013 *Boston Globe* Best Book of the Year. The intimate setting of Sibley Hall offered attendees a rare opportunity to ask questions and converse with a bestselling author both as a group and one-on-one. People took advantage of a similar opportunity to speak individually with published authors when we hosted our 2nd Annual Local Authors' Fair last November. We also hosted Howard Mansfield, author of *In the Memory House*, in partnership with the Groton Historical Society. This event drew GHS members, local history buffs, and an entire class of high school American history students.

### Perennial Favorites

Some events are just so popular, we keep bringing them back! This year we hosted:

- **W.C. Fields and Mae West**, a Delvena Theatre Company theatrical performance, co-sponsored with the Groton Woman's Club
- **Early Medical Practice in Small Towns**, a co-sponsored event with the Groton Historical Society
- Artist Gregory Maichack's **Sublime Sunflowers: Pastel Painting Workshop**
- Master Gardener Jodie Gilson, with three well-attended gardening programs
- Chef Liz Barbour, **Feasting from Literature**
- **Shake-Scene II**, Actor Stephen Collins

In addition, patrons enjoyed special programs on making mittens, decorating cupcakes, gift wrapping, and rug hooking this year.

*Thank you to Ann Wilson, for sixteen wonderful years of adult programming and service to the library! We wish you all the best in your retirement!*

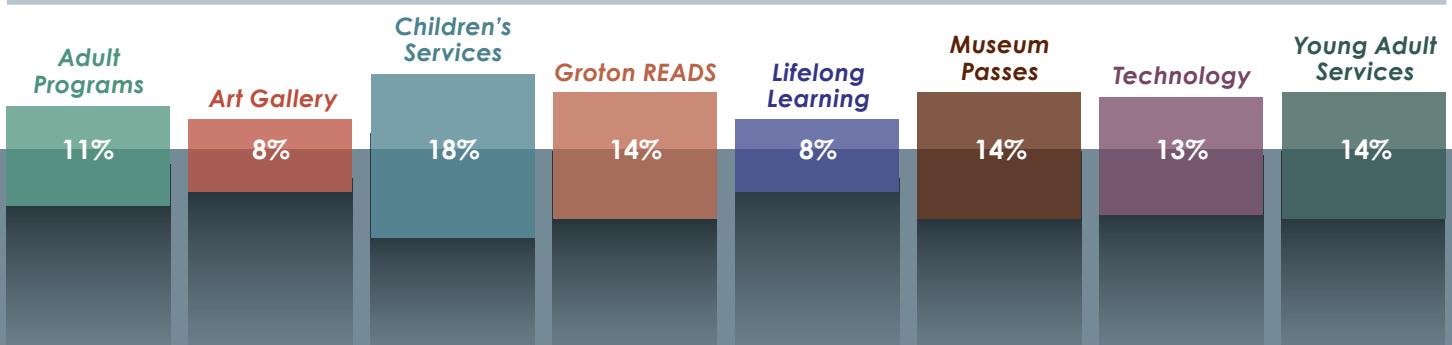
### Save the date!

The Delvena Theatre Company returns with “Franklin and Eleanor” on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 2 pm.  
Co-Sponsored with the Groton Woman's Club.

### 2015 Survey Answer to 'Where Does GPL Excel?'

“Love the programs, Groton Reads, Life Long Learning. Also there seems to be loads of activities for kids.”

## FY2015 Endowment Programs





Atticus and Tom Ryan on stage

# Groton READS

by Vanessa Abraham, Library Director



This year, Groton read **Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship** by **Tom Ryan**, the remarkable true story of a man and a dog as they took on the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

GPL celebrated its BIGGEST EVENT EVER, as over 800 people signed up for tickets to attend “Sunday Afternoon with Tom & Atticus” in April! Tom Ryan announced on his Facebook page to 250,000+ followers that Groton was to be his only speaking engagement this year, and people flew from all over the country

and from Canada to hear him speak (and to see the famous Atticus)! People waited up to 3 hours to get a copy of their book signed after Tom’s talk.

Library staff rose to the occasion to handle the additional volume of inquiries brought about by an event of this magnitude, including fielding questions such as, “Where is your closest airport?”

**Related events:** Professional Mountain Guide Craig John; Service Dog Panel; Therapy Dog Norbert; Local Journalism Panel; Groton Trails Committee Hike; Inspirational Speaker Randy Pierce; Colorado Rocky Mountain School Student Nick Wilder; Teen Orienteering Workshop; *Play Again* Documentary & Discussion; and several book discussions.

From: Cofran, Sandra  
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015  
9:25 AM

To: GPL Info

Subject: Sunday's event

“I have always thought that the Groton library’s staff was AWESOME, but you were all AMAZING on Sunday. What a great event for Groton and for GPL. I have never seen such a turnout for a library event... not even some of the Town Meetings get that size audience.

“Congratulations on a terrific event... I laughed, I cried... it was wonderful.”

Our 2016  
Groton READS title will be  
**The Martian** by Andy Weir!  
“Brilliant...a celebration of human ingenuity [and] the purest example of real-science sci-fi for many years  
...Utterly compelling.”  
—Wall Street Journal

## Lifelong Learning Courses

Read. Think. Engage. Learn.

It was another fabulous year of course offerings, thanks to all our volunteer facilitators – residents who freely share their knowledge, expertise, and talent with course participants. A special thank you to Mary Jennings, Volunteer Curriculum Coordinator, who, in partnership with Arlene Townes, orchestrated all fall and spring courses.

### Fall 2014 Courses:

- Modern American Poets, led by Mary Jennings
  - Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
  - Women Hold Up Half the Sky, led by Arlene Townes
  - Genealogy: Shaking the Family Tree, led by Ellen Todd
  - Get to Know Main Street, led by Lili Ott
  - Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?, led by Gregg Baker
  - Telling Your Story: Discover, Practice, Perform, led by Owen S. Shuman
  - Immigrant Voices Speak through Short Stories, led by Mary Jennings
  - Boston Film Noir, led by Jon Glazier
- Perennial favorite, “Stories Only You Can Tell” memoir-writing workshop with Zoann Guernsey, was also held in the fall.

### Spring 2015 Courses:

- Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
- Introduction to Genealogy, led by Alex Woodle
- Great Decisions 2015, led by Tom Callahan
- The Visual Arts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, led by Kimbereley Rector
- One Woman, One Vote, led by Arlene Townes
- New England Gems: Small Local Museums, led by Carole Greenfield and Marcia Melanson

The GPL Endowment Trust generously supports all Lifelong Learning at the library, including the Spanish Conversation Group (led by Verónica Mazzu) and French Conversation Group (led by Thomas Knatt).

# GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

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GROTON, MA

## GROTON POSTAL PATRON

# Art Gallery News

by Ken Hansen, Art Gallery Coordinator



Sculpture by Ray Ciemny constructed from remnants of the old Fitch's Bridge

This past season featured several artists from Groton along with a good sampling of talents from numerous Massachusetts locales (a mix consistent with our mission of seeking interesting work to share from anywhere we find it and to provide a venue for local artists to engage with the community).

We brought a summer feel into the fall with Paul Schulenburg of Eastham, Ann Gillespie of Bolton, and Barbara Chaisson of Weymouth treating us to some beautiful and serene landscapes.

Donald Shambroom of Athol tested our reactions to his new series of colorful, cerebral, and challenging mixed media constructions.

Joel Moskowitz of Sudbury shared his clever re-purposing of vintage library catalog index cards. Each card was painted and collaged in a manner that obscures, alters, or amplifies the meaning of the original text.

Groton's Heather Aziz, Christine Brooks, and Rebecca Ranney wowed

us with their respective styles of graphic artistry and printmaking.

Early spring brought oil paintings by Groton Muralist, Susan Marion, and Acton's Lisa Kamens. Their show, *Personal Spaces*, displayed a variety of interpretations of traditional motifs such as landscape and still life.

Illustrious metal-smith, Ray Ciemny, was joined by fellow Groton artists—photographer Nancy Graupner, and painter, art instructor, and evangelist of everything artistic, Joni Parker-Roach—for an exhibit in tribute to the Nashua River and Fitch's Bridge. Printmaker Erika Radich, of Keene, NH, completed the group of contributors to the thematic venture. We were fortunate to have NRWA founder Marion Stoddart give a talk at the show reception after a screening of *Greenway Heroes*, a documentary film by Sue Edwards.

The remainder of the season was all “Kid stuff,” a sampler of school vacation projects by local youth.



Young artists from the Summer Sampler Show