

GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure

2016

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

THRIVING & HAVING FUN AT YOUR LIBRARY!

GPL #1 in Teen Programs!

*For four years in a row, Groton Public Library has ranked FIRST in total attendance at all teen programs in the state!**

This remarkable achievement is due to many factors, but key among them: our terrific Teen Librarian, Deborah Dowson; the amazing young adults in Groton who get involved at their library; the outstanding support in Town for the library and specifically for teen services; and the generous funding from the GPL Endowment Trust for teen events, refreshments, supplies, and both YA Winter and Summer Reading Programs. Thank you all for contributing to such a phenomenally successful program!

*Compared to the 51 other public libraries serving the same population grouping (10K-15K), FY15 data

have been flooded with use. We purchased two units so space is always available for the convenience, comfort, and safety of our patrons - even on holiday weekends, when no staff is here to empty the bins for two days in a row.

A special thank you to the Department of Public Works for the granite curbing and assistance with the excavation and creation of an all-new ramp, pad, and foundation for the returns.



Mini-Golf in the Library!

What?! Mini-Golf in the Library?! YES! Over 500 people came in on Sunday, June 26, to either watch or play a round of mini-golf through the library stacks! Library staff and volunteers did a fantastic job decorating all 18 holes according to its theme, from *Harry Potter* to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* to *Willy Wonka*! It was a fabulous kick-off event for our sports-themed Summer Reading Program!

A special thank you to Groton Police and Fire Departments for participating, and to Arts Nashoba, for letting us borrow some of your amazing props.

Astronaut Is Out of This World!

The library drew a crowd of nearly 300 on March 30, when Astronaut Michael Foreman visited! Captain Foreman led two story times for 150 awestruck kids (and their awestruck parents!) and gave a presentation to a full house of teens and adults about his career, missions to space, the future of space travel, and what it was like to live at the International Space Station. He fielded many questions from the enthusiastic audience, who kept him here well past program's end. Captain Foreman also signed photos and copies of *The Martian* (which he said was a personal favorite and one of the "best stories ever written on space.") One attendee, bursting with excitement, said, "It's been a lifelong dream of mine to meet an astronaut! This is the best day of my life!"

A special thank you to One Giant Leap, Inc., for helping to coordinate this event!



Photo (above): Playing mini-golf in the library
Photo (right): Astronaut Michael Foreman at the library



Drive-Up Returns

Thanks to the generosity of the GPL Endowment Trustees, we added our first-ever drive-up book return this summer, fulfilling a top request from the library's 2015 community survey results. Within just two months of being available, walk-up returns have dwindled to a trickle, while the drive-up returns



Dear Groton Neighbor,

Greetings!

We offer this report to you at the end of the GPL Endowment Trust's 19th 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, additional services, or new 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, 2016, shows assets totaling \$2,212,683. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for programs and services for the library. \$72,210 was expended for grants during Fiscal Year 2016, and \$81,669 has already been approved for FY2017.

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 invite everyone to support this vital fund.

It's easy and convenient to donate. Please visit our website at gplendowment.org and click on ways to give, or use the enclosed envelope for drop off at the library or to 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 Lapres, Chair

Edward Strachan, Treasurer

David Alexander

Kristen von Campe, Library Trustee

Vanessa Abraham, Library Director

THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and corporations who made gifts to the GPL Endowment Trust from October 2015 through September 2016.

- Vanessa Abraham
- Mike and Patti Aha
- David and Lucy Alexander
- Anita Anderson
- Randall and Kathleen Barron
- Len and Pat Bennett
- Camilla Blackman
- Thomas and Susan Boggiano
- Helene Bond
- Ellen Brandt
- Edward Bretschneider
- Charlie and Betsy Bridge
- Audrey Bryce
- David and Nancy Bugbee
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John Ellenberger
- Nancy Todd
- Jodi Valenta
- Virginia Vollmar
- Alfred and Kristen von Campe
- Nancy Wilder
- David Woods
- Michael and Jennie Woods
- David and Julie Zeiler

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

Complete financial reports are available at the library.

Dedication:

SANDRA COFRAN (1948-2016)



This newsletter is dedicated to Sandra Cofran, former trustee and great library patron.

If you ever visited Sandy at home, and perused her overflowing bookshelves, you might assume she had no need for a public library. But she was a library patron extraordinaire, visiting us weekly with a list of titles to check out, and others she encouraged us to acquire. When Sandy suggested, we listened. (Whether swayed more by her infectious enthusiasm or the baked goods she brought for us, we won't say...)

No library collection, private or public, could contain her non-stop curiosity, her endless love of learning. Such phrases can sound puffed-up, but they do not do justice to Sandy, who packed more into a month than many of us do into a year. After her full work days at the Massachusetts Audubon Society, her extracurricular activities included psychology and sociology courses at UMass Lowell, Harvard Extension classes on literature and poetry, lectures and symposia at Wellesley on religion and art, and lifelong learning classes at GPL on topics from international women's issues to film noir. She spread the word about every local concert, from baroque strings at

the Concord Library to gypsy guitar at the Bull Run, and she seemed to attend every local author's talk, book signing, or film screening - whether it was a genre-bending indie film or a classic silent movie at Wilton Town Hall.

As much as she loved these products of human culture, she was even more fascinated by the natural world. She seldom got to the library before sundown; while the sun was up, she preferred to tend her garden, rock hound on Plum Island, hike to a hilltop to watch migrating hawks, or kayak on Heald Pond to find carnivorous plants. Her shelves were loaded with science texts, field guides, and nature writing, from the old Transcendentalists to the latest Mary Oliver collection. For a novel to get on her list of favorites, it had to have a natural science angle. Medicinal plants put *Year of Wonders* on her list, and mosses did the same for *The Signature of All Things*. One of her favorite books from childhood, *The Wind in the Willows*, she was re-reading in her last days. Discussing the story of Ratty, Mole, and Mr. Toad, Sandy admitted that animals were probably her favorite people. But with respect to the human variety, Sandy often told us, "librarians are some of my favorite people!"

Sandy, we hope you knew the feeling was mutual.

Missing you already,
GPL Library Staff

Interview with DAVID RIGGERT, New Endowment Trustee

Why did you decide to serve on the GPL Endowment Board?

"The GPL is a fantastic organization and I have enjoyed knowing a number of past and present board members. With my kids grown, I have a little more free time and I want to give back. I have experience with managing endowments, and it's a genuine pleasure to work with people I hold in high esteem and in the service of an organization I fully support and believe in. I don't always get a chance to come in and enjoy the library - not like I did when the kids were younger - but I drive by often and there is always something going on - it's wonderful to see. I am truly excited about getting involved in the funding of library programs; that will be a joy for me."

Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

"I grew up in Sudbury (Mass.), where my parents still live today. I went to Boston College, studied finance & economics, then went on to get an MBA at Northeastern; but in between, I took a year off to travel around the country with a close friend. The trip was as valuable a learning experience as formal education. I was in Detroit before moving to a Philadelphia suburb where I met my wife, Karen, and we had our three kids: Julie, Sarah, and Jake. In 1995, I took a job with Bemis Associates as CFO, where I have been for the last 21 years. It's a great company and

I have enjoyed growing with Bemis as we have established customers and operations around the world. Our goal is truly to 'Make people's lives better.'"

When you moved back to the area, why did you make Groton your home?

"We looked at a number of towns in the area, but chose Groton for its good school system, for being a great place to raise kids, and because of how engaged people were in town activities. I have enjoyed serving on the Trails and Greenway Committees and coaching kids' sports. Our family grew up in Groton and it has met our high expectations."

What do you like best about Groton?

"It's a wonderful community. People care about each other and the town. You don't see things in Groton that are poorly done. We have many dear friends in town, people who are ambitious, generous, and talented."

Dave was appointed to the Endowment Board on October 11, 2016, to fill the vacancy left by David Alexander's resignation at the end of September.



Did you know 10,689 people attended 680 library programs last year?



Cloe and Betsy Bridge with Shiver for GPL's Read to a Dog program



Yo-Yos, Music, & Dance program

Children Got a Jump on Reading @ the Library this Summer!

by Karen Dunham, Head of Children's Services

Thanks to the Endowment, children scored big this summer with "On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!" 594 children joined the Summer Reading Program and enjoyed the special events - some of which focused on physical fitness, dance, and even hula-hooping! In addition to the reading incentives and raffle prizes, a bingo game got the children motivated to explore the library. The kids couldn't wait to make it to the finish line with a reward of an ice cream cone from Kimball Farm!

Special events that took place this summer:

- *Mini-Motions*
- *Let's Gogh Dance*
- *Makey-Makey Inventor's Workshop*
- *Karen K. & the Jitterbugs*
- *Wildlife Encounters*
- *Knucklebones Mobile Fitness*
- *Pinto Bella Hoops Hula-Hooping*
- *The One-Man Circus in-a-Suitcase* with Circus Minimus
- *Music & Storytelling* with Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell
- *Yo-Yos, Music, & Dance* with Brett Outchunis
- *Tanglewood Marionettes* thrilled an audience of 220 with their production of Cinderella

Children's Programs

A record 4,760 kids attended 250 children's programs this year!

Once again we offered a Winter Reading Program for children in grades K-5. Fifty-four children signed up and participants who read 4 books during February received a gift bag of prizes, a reading certificate, and a raffle ticket for a \$25 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

Other special programs included:

- *EcoTarium Rocket Launch*
- McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center *Living & Working in Space*
- Two Storytimes with *Astronaut Michael Foreman*
- *Mini-Golf* Summer Reading Kick-Off
- The 9 very popular monthly *Tales & Tunes* music program for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers attracted 617 attendees!
- Weekly drop-in preschool craft
- Tween Movie Nights
- **LEGO® WeDo® Robotics** for 7-9 year olds

Bus Transportation for School Visits

Twenty-four elementary school classes from Florence Roche and Swallow Union (a total of 548 children) visited the library thanks to funding for bus transportation by the Endowment. Classroom visits are already underway for this school year.



Tales & Tunes with Jeannie Mack

I didn't know the road behind the library was called Playground Road. Thanks for this info. I always thought it was: Our-Wonderful-Library-with-the-Friendly-Staff-and-Great-Bathroom-Wallpaper-and-Lovely-Garden-and-Even-Jigsaw-Puzzles Back Entrance Road.

Now I know better.

-Sally, posted on *Talk About Groton*

Annalee Barbar gets her face painted at the library



TEEN PROGRAMS

by Deborah Dowson, Young Adult Librarian

Groton boasts a consistent top ranking in the state for our number of teen programs (#2) and teen program attendance (#1), but numbers only tell part of the story. The loyalty of our regular users and support from our teen volunteers is truly something to be proud of.



experienced Robotics Club members are now volunteering to teach the newer members how to build and code the robots. Recently, two high school students have offered to teach a videography class. Our teens are giving back in ways that allow them to create the kinds of

Our Young Adult Advisory Council has always been a great source of ideas and assistance, but this year they participated more than ever in library events. They helped with the Children's Halloween party and at Grotonfest. They planned and hosted a Harry Potter Fan Day, complete with food, costumes, and trivia. They made all of the decorations for the Harry Potter Hole at the Mini-Golf event and, along with decorating their own hole, helped set up, decorate, and disassemble the entire course. Teen volunteers shelve books in the YA area and help out at Llama Lounge, the after school half day program that draws scores of middle schoolers to the library. Robotics Club members volunteered their time as well, both by creating robotic obstacles for the mini-golf event and also bringing their remote-controlled robots to demonstrate at the Elementary School Science Fair. One club member volunteered to teach a Computer Assisted Design class and some of our more

programs and experiences they want, and in doing so, they are helping to build one of the strongest young adult communities in the state.

The all-ages mini-golf event was a super way to kick off the "Get in the Game: READ" Summer Reading Program. Overall, participation was up 8.5% this summer with 267 young adults registered. The movie nights remain popular, as do the arts and crafts workshops and henna party. The Winter Reading Program "Cocoa Club" had 37 teens registered, and featured a weekly hot chocolate bar that invited teens to come and get a free cup of cocoa, unplug, and read for an hour after school. This fall we have a new book group for Grades 6 & 7 called "Book Buzz" that meets after school once a month to talk about books and enjoy a special treat. Whether it is a high-tech robotics club, 3D printing program, or a traditional book club, the Endowment supports all the activities that connect teens to the library.

Museum Pass Program

The GPL Endowment Trust generously provides free or discounted passes to 21 area attractions, where you can enjoy the magic of butterflies in flight at the Butterfly Place, be amazed by your first 4D theater experience at the Museum of Science, or delight in the adorable penguins and fascinating sea life at the New England Aquarium.

Museum passes were used 1,200 times last year, saving our patrons over \$30,000! The five most popular passes were to the New England Aquarium, Museum of Science, Museum of Fine Arts, Discovery Museums, and the Butterfly Place.

A complete list of passes is available online at gpl.org. Passes may be reserved up to 90 days in advance with your library card number and PIN.

Photo (below): YA Robotics Club members Izaac Rutherford and Grace Remillard at the GD Elementary Schools Science Fair



Photo (above): Allison L. enjoying arm knitting



Photo (right): ArtsNashoba KIDpaint event at the library

Groton READS

The Martian!

by Vanessa Abraham, Library Director

Summertime is Reading Time for Adults, Too!

by Lisa Baylis,
Head of Circulation Services

Exercise your Mind...READ! was the theme for our third annual Adult Summer Reading Program. For those adventurous readers who love a challenge, we offered an exciting Olympics-inspired "Go for the GOLD Challenge!" We had 22 Olympic Reading Events that people could "medal in" by meeting the reading requirement (e.g. to satisfy the BACKSTROKE event, you had to read or listen to a book that took you "back" in time; for the HURDLES event, you needed to read a story about someone who overcame adversity.) Our Circulation Desk was covered with these Olympic Medal sheets completed by enthusiastic readers (like it was the 'community's refrigerator,' as one patron noted!). It was fun to see which books were favorites this summer!

In keeping with the exercise theme, we hosted our first Adult Summer Reading event, "Bollywood Blast!" Sibley Hall was full of smiling faces and rhythmic movements as we tried out some basic Indian dances led by Mrudula Gadgil.

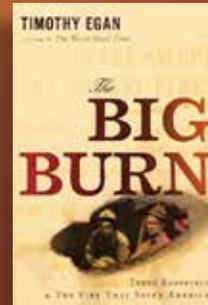


Over 100 adults signed up, read 808 books, and completed over 20 Olympic Reading Challenge sheets. Eight lucky readers won grand prizes of activity trackers or gift certificates to popular Main Street businesses.

The Martian by Andy Weir was our 2016 Community Read! This runaway bestselling science fiction novel about an astronaut stranded on Mars sparked lots of great events and conversations:

- *The Academy Awards: The Good, the Bad, and the Outrageous* with Film Historian Frank Mandosa
- *GPL After Hours* showing of *The Martian*, the award-winning film starring Matt Damon
- *Feasting with Potatoes* with Chef Liz Barbour
- *The Real Martian* by Jim Zebrowski of the Aldrich Astronomical Society
- *Successful Self-Publishing* with Jane Karker of the Boston Writers Publishing Cooperative
- *What the Martian Gets Right (and Wrong) about Science* by Tim Leonard of Groton

What's the next Groton Reads book going to be?



In 2017, we will celebrate *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America* by Timothy Egan, 2009. It's a dramatic, page-turning, true account of the largest-ever forest fire in America, the men who barely escaped with their lives while trying to fight it (as well as the men who didn't), and how this tragedy gave new life to early conservation efforts as spearheaded by the larger-than-life Teddy Roosevelt. Look for special events in February and March!

DOWNTON ABBEY TEAS

by Lisa Baylis, Head of Circulation Services

We hosted our final year of "Downton Abbey 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 (and final) season. 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, of course!) 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 many courses were served at a traditional Edwardian formal dinner? (Answer: 10! Imagine the dishes!)

Downton Abbey lovers were sad to see our get-togethers end. "Such a delightful way to spend an afternoon at the library! Your attention to detail made for such a special time." "I enjoyed them tremendously!! The teas, scones, and other goodies you provided just enhanced the British experience. And I made a few new friends in the short time I was there." "I can't begin to describe how much it meant for me to participate. Thank you so much."

Did you know that GPL had 105,831 visitors last year?

A Busy and Exciting Year for Adult Programs!

by **Lauren Sanchez**, Adult Programs Coordinator

This year we initiated a new series, “The Suburban Homesteader,” with presentations on gardening, crafting, DIY, and cooking. We kicked off in May with Terry Golson’s program on backyard chicken keeping, followed by a container gardening program with Master Gardener Jodie Gilson. Jodie returned in July for a workshop on creating natural insect repellents and in August for her popular “Preserving Summer’s Bounty” program.

Hands-on programs are always a hit. In September, Pamela Gaskins gave a class on coil basketry using local materials. Perennial favorite Gregory Maichack returned in November for a pastel painting workshop and showed



participants how to paint a calla lily in the style of Georgia O’Keeffe. Groton residents were active program presenters, too! Michael Hackney gave an informative talk and demo on 3D printing; Shua Arshad presented 4 lectures and discussions on Muslims and Islam; Musician Kevin Kastning performed an acoustic guitar concert with friend

Sandor Szabo; and GDRHS grad Connor Johnson presented “Cyber Seniors,” to help seniors with their smart phones and tablets and with social media.

Other special events this year: Delvena Theatre’s “Truly Eleanor” (co-sponsored with the Groton Woman’s Club); Central Mass. Architecture Prior to 1870 with Nicholas Langhart (co-sponsored with Groton Historical Society); and Mystery Author Steve Ulfelder (co-sponsored with the Mystery Book Group.) In addition, the library hosted three monthly book groups (GPL Book Group, Mystery Book Group, and Great Books), a weekly knitting & handicrafts group, and a weekly adult coloring group.

Lifelong Learning Courses

Read. Think. Engage. Learn.

Library Lifelong Learning Courses are facilitated by residents who freely share their time, energy, and expertise with participants. All courses and materials are free to participants, thanks to the support of the GPL Endowment Trust.

Fall 2015 Courses:

Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
TED Talks & More, led by Mary Jennings and Eric Wickfield
Great Decisions 2015, led by Jim Simko
Greek Tragedy, led by David O. Ross
Mortal Matters, led by Mary Jennings
Introduction to Astronomy, led by Tim Leonard
Exploring Groton, led by Lili Ott and Owen Shuman
Genealogy: Shaking the Family Tree, led by Ellen Todd
Global Poverty & the New Economics, led by Edythe Salzman

Spring 2016 Courses:

Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
Finding Meaning in Film & Food, led by Mary Jennings
Great Decisions 2016, led by Jim Simko
Introduction to Genealogy, led by Alex Woodle
Economic Inequality & the Upcoming Election, led by Edythe Salzman
Brain Health Series, co-sponsored with the Council on Aging

The GPL Endowment Trust also supports:

Spanish Conversation Group, led by native Spanish speaker and Ayer School District Spanish Teacher, Veronica Mazzu

“Stories Only You Can Tell” Memoir-Writing Workshop, led by Zoann Guernsey – a perennial favorite for 15 years!

Special thanks to Mary Jennings, for four years of extraordinary service as GPL’s Lifelong Learning Coordinator!

Groton Public Library Endowment Trust MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Trust is to assist in maintaining the quality and excellence of the Groton Public Library by providing a means above and beyond the library’s normal resources, assuring continuation of the high standards achieved during the library’s long history.

Income from the Trust is to be used to enhance, enrich, and supplement the funds available for the materials collection, programs, and other special needs of the library. This income shall not replace funds appropriated annually by the Town or other funds managed by the Town for the support of the library.

FY2016 Programs

Adult Programs	7%
Art Gallery	6%
Children’s Services	19%
Furnishings & Equipment	28%
Groton READS	5%
Lifelong Learning	7%
Museum Passes	12%
Technology	3%
Young Adult Services	13%

GROTON POSTAL PATRON

Art Gallery News

by Ken Hansen, Art Gallery Coordinator



Nan Hockenbury

Our season opened with the photographic compositions of **Louis Henri Pingatore** of Cambridge. His experimental images are printed on metal to stunning effect.

Nan Hockenbury's themed series of abstract paintings, *Myths of Creation*, interprets folklore traditions drawn from cultures around the world.

Tarja Cockell, Diane Joe, Max Payne and Susan Landsman combined for a warm, vibrantly colorful, and varied display of fiber arts.

Groton's own **Nashoba Valley Artists** ushered in spring with an array of lovely landscape works. Thanks to **Barbara Barton Badstubner, Valerie Baier, Nancy Dey, Shirley Man, Peg McWade, Connie Sartini, and Ellen Todd.**

An ambitious new series by noted landscape painter **Christopher Volpe** was unveiled in our gallery for the first time. In the *Moby Dick* inspired *Loomings*, Volpe takes on some complex subject matter with a challenging choice of medium, combining oil paint and tar.



Christopher Volpe leads a discussion.



Nashoba Valley Artists



Collage workshop with Susan Landsman.