

# GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure



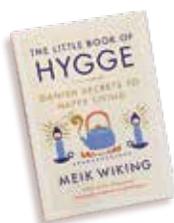
Photo (above): Fireplace café

# 2018

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

## Celebrating Life's Simple Pleasures at the Library

This year, we celebrated hygge (HOO-GA), a Danish word meaning “comfortable coziness,” with our Groton Read selection, *The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living* by Meik Wiking. We were inspired by the book’s positive, joyful message, and its focus on natural products and experiences, small scale interpersonal connections, homegrown events, and warm and cozy ideas for the winter months.



to touch and feed them while learning about these amazing creatures and some of the wonderful products made with their soft fur. We served over 150 cups of hot cocoa! This event was a hit with every age, with many families and generations attending. This was also true with our Family Board Game Days, which drew in all ages for traditional board games and fun.

### Cozy Hygge Cafés

These cafés ran for six weeks on Friday mornings and drew a total of nearly 200 people! Small casual groupings scattered around the area, by the “fireplace” (made up of encyclopedias, flickering fairy lights, and birch logs), with a buffet of baked goodies (many handmade by library staff), catered gourmet hot cocoa, coffee, and tea (and real china mugs and dishes made the experience that much more special), and serendipitous small group connections – all of which brought many smiles and surprised delight from patrons! A little bit of magic happened halfway through one of our discussions when the former U.S. Ambassador to Denmark joined us! (He is actually mentioned on page 2 of

the book!) He shared his experiences with Danish culture, answered all our questions, and signed copies of the book for us.

### Food & Chocolate

For teens, making Danish treats and mug cozies were the biggest hits. We also set up a Hot Chocolate Bar on Tuesdays after school, so teens could help themselves and then stay and read for an hour. This was so successful the first time we tried it, that we extended it for the entire winter!

### Play Time

Many hygge events had a playful characteristic that people responded to. It felt like relaxed moments to get back to basic joys. Especially well-attended events included Melted Cheese for Comfort in the Cold, Crafting Illuminated Houses with natural materials, and the Science of Chocolate - with samples! Kids enjoyed several hygge-inspired crafts and a rare evening storytime - pajamas encouraged!



### Warm & Fuzzy Kickoff

On a cold Saturday afternoon in January, Groton’s Luina Greine Farm brought two alpacas to the library! Kids of all ages got



Above left: Illuminated Houses

Left: Rufus Gifford, former Ambassador to Denmark, visits the Fireplace café

Right: Luina Greine Farm alpacas



# THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and corporations who made gifts to the GPL Endowment Trust from October 2017 through September 2018.

Vanessa and William Abraham	Jim Fraser and Ruth Goldenberg
Duane Matters	Edward and Elizabeth Strachan
David and Lucy Alexander	Marc and Diane Gavel
Lorrie Morgan	John Tabaczynski
Allegro MicroSystems, LLC	James and Adrienne Gmeiner
Stephen Painter and Ann Corbey	Patti Jo Thompson and John Ellenberger
Anonymous	Paul and Geraldine Harter
Natina Perrotti	Nancy Todd
The Benevity Community Impact Fund	Joan Huber
Wendy Pix	Virginia Vollmar
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David and Karen Riggert	Alfred and Kristen von Campe
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Meredith Scarlet	David and Nancy Wilder
Castle Rock 17/18 Series	Tim Leonard and Ann J. Rothberg
Charles Schneider	Michael and Jennie Woods
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Jason and Katherine Shamberger	Your Cause, LLC
John and Jacqueline Eschle	Paul and Mimi Matisse
Kim and Janet Sheffield	David and Julie Zeiler
John Feeney	
J.R. Sopka and Debra Martin	

## 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.

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

Complete financial reports are available at the library.

Dear Groton Neighbor,

### Greetings!

We offer this report to you at the end of the GPL Endowment Trust's 21st 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 furnishings 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, 2018, shows assets totaling \$2,768,415. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for programs and services for the Library. In FY2018, \$78,992 was expended for grants, and \$85,387 has already been approved for FY2019.

**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.

**How to Donate.** To use PayPal, go to [gplendowment.org](http://gplendowment.org) and under "Ways to Give," click on DONATE. Or send a check to the Endowment by mail to:

**GPL Endowment Trust  
Post Office Box 401  
Groton, MA 01450-0401**

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

Edward Strachan, Secretary/Treasurer

David Riggert

David Zeiler, Library Trustee

Vanessa Abraham, Library Director

## 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.

# A Conversation with Edward Strachan



Edward Strachan grew up on an Iowa farm, but came east to attend MIT, and has lived in the northeast ever since. He has served on the GPL Endowment Trust Board for the past 22 years.

## ***What has kept you involved in the Endowment for so many years?***

“A lot of it has to do with the fact that a few years after we moved to Groton, I got involved in town

government, and I’ve basically been doing something involved with the town or the region ever since. I’ve been on the Finance Committee, Selectman ... the hospital board when it was a community hospital ... Groton seems to be full of wonderful organizations and great people to work with. This library has been my latest effort ... it’s been marvelous to see how the library has changed along with the town ... it’s just been a delight to grow with.”

## ***What will you miss the most?***

“Two things: I enjoyed the people I’ve worked with ... the Trustees all these years, and generally being involved in the community.”

## ***What has been your greatest satisfaction from serving on the Endowment Board?***

“We had this wonderfully successful initial fundraising effort that clearly was intended to and succeeded in being

able to add significant amenities to what the taxpayers are willing to support in terms of the library. And the fact that we’ve been able to make that support grow over the years ... the Endowment started at around \$1.2 million and has grown to just over \$2.75 million, with about a million being spent for enhancements that would otherwise not have been possible - artwork, the art gallery, museum passes, fantastic programming - because what you see is how different the library needs to be than it was 20 years ago in terms of what it provides to the community. Without this resource of the Endowment, you wouldn’t have been able to adapt nearly as fast. That’s probably the largest satisfaction of having served on the board.”

## ***Advice for Future Board Members?***

“Money-wise, I am a believer in the overall, long-term growth of the economy, and you want to be invested primarily in equities. That’s where the total return is going to come from ... that’s the philosophy I’ve found successful over the years as an investment advisor.”

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*Ed Strachan is First Vice-President at Morgan Stanley, with a career spanning 50 years. He is the only remaining Trustee on the Board today who signed the original Groton Public Library Endowment Trust instrument on November 13, 1996. Ed has served as the primary investment advisor and the official Secretary/Treasurer for the Trust since 2003. He is resigning from the Endowment Board effective December 31, 2018. He will be greatly missed.*

## MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

The GPL Endowment Trust generously provides free or discounted passes to 22 area attractions, where you can be amazed by your first 4D theater experience at the Museum of Science, delight in the adorable penguins and fascinating sea life at the New England Aquarium, or catch your breath when you see the original of your favorite work of art in person and up close at the MFA.

Museum passes were used 1,213 times last year, which represents a total savings of \$29,418 for pass users!

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

The most popular passes were (in order):

**Museum of Science**  
**New England Aquarium**  
**Museum of Fine Arts**  
**Discovery Museums**  
**The Butterfly Place**  
**Peabody Essex Museum**  
**Davis Farmland**  
**Zoo New England**  
**Isabella Stewart Gardner**  
**Worcester Art Museum**

**Did you know that GPL held 701 programs in FY18, which drew a total of 11,392 participants to the Library?**

# Libraries Rock!

## Crown & Crumpets Afternoon Tea Series

We hosted 5 English, buffet-style Afternoon Teas while watching Season 1 of the NETFLIX award winning series, *THE CROWN*.

This drama follows the political rivalries and romance of Queen Elizabeth II's reign and the events that shaped the second half of the 20th century.

Ladies and gentlemen enjoyed home baked scones and tea breads with butter & jam, plus fresh brewed tea in teapots kept warm with tea cozies. The tables were set with elegant tablecloths, china cups and saucers, and centerpiece platters offered a sampling of cookies and candy. We enjoyed some fun during intermission by playing a trivia game and learning historical tidbits from that era.



October Encore! It was requested that we host The Crown Tea Series twice each year because many people were unable to reserve a seat for the winter event.

## 2018 Adult Summer Reading Program

by Lisa Baylis, Head of Circulation Services



Archaeology  
talk with  
Michael Danti

Yes, they do! And this place was definitely rocking this summer! Reading totals hit an all-time high of 995 books (5% more than the previous record), as participants read more than ever before! Many people enjoyed the "Read & Go!" Challenge, as it encouraged readers to let their reading inspire new adventures. Reading good books is contagious and this was also a great way to share our favorite titles.

Events! We have gone from 1 event 3 years ago to 12 this summer! We offered a wide range of stimulating and entertaining

programs, from Groton archaeologist Michael Danti's dynamic talk on his work in the Middle East; a fun-filled 80's trivia night with the Trivia Brothers; ukulele lessons; to a delightful night with Jeff Rapsis, a silent film accompanist. Total summer adult program attendance topped 280!

Weekly Barnes & Noble gift card drawings were definitely popular! Adult readers also supported a very worthy cause this year, Hungry for Music. Every three books read "earned" a \$1 donation.

### SUMMER READING CHARITY 2018

It has become an annual tradition: one of the prizes summer reading program participants can "earn" is a small donation to a worthy charity, thanks only to the generosity of Endowment. With music as this year's theme, staff selected **Hungry for Music** ([hungryformusic.org](http://hungryformusic.org)), a wonderful non-profit organization dedicated to expanding opportunities in music for children.

Combining our three Summer Reading Programs (adults, teens, and children), all participants recorded their reading and "earned" their way up to \$1,140! This donation will remain local and be used to support both the Roxbury Youth Orchestra and Title One Public Schools in Boston.

Hungry for Music also collects used musical instruments and refurbishes them to give to budding musicians in communities with the greatest need. Groton readers also contributed more than a dozen musical instruments - from flutes to slide trombones to a tuba to an African Slotted Tongue Drum - for a future child to enjoy.





# Children **ROCKED** the Summer Reading Program @ GPL!

by **Karen Dunham**, Head of Children's Services

610 children from 18 months to 5th grade joined the Summer Reading Program - proving once again that Libraries Rock! The Endowment funded several special performances which included puppetry, magic, live animals, and of course, MUSIC!

This year, in addition to earning prizes and raffle tickets for meeting reading goals, children could earn a free ice cream at Johnson's Restaurant and Dairy Bar by completing a Bingo sheet with fun activities. For every child who met their reading goal for at least 6 weeks, \$1 was donated to support Hungry for Music - and the total for the summer came to \$437! The Endowment funded all the wonderful prizes as well as the donation to Hungry for Music.

Musical highlights included Bill Harley, two-time Grammy award-winning artist, who presented funny and heartwarming songs and stories for all ages; musicians Davis Bates & Roger Tinknell; singer Alissa Coates; and Friends of Broadway, a talented group of girls who sang and performed Broadway and Pop tunes!

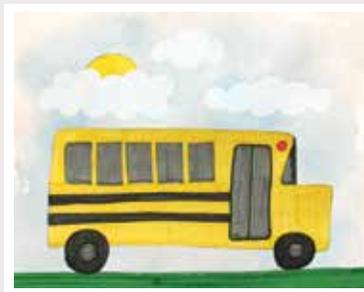
Percussionist and violinist Ricardo Frota entertained while playing multicultural songs using traditional rhythm instruments, as well as instruments made of recycled and natural found objects. Ricardo incorporated African, South American, Native American, and Brazilian music into this interactive presentation.



Children had the opportunity to try out several musical instruments in a hands-on "Petting Zoo" provided by Indian Hill Music, and they also played along with Bob Bloom during "Drumming about You," a participatory drumming program.

Other outstanding events this summer were multi-talented magician Robert Clarke whose magic tricks, juggling, and comedy enthralled everyone in attendance! The always popular animal programs included the captivating live Caterpillar Lab; Wingmasters: Music to Our Ears with live birds of prey; and a live turtle program which incorporated storytelling, singing, movement, and creative arts.

The Libraries Rock Summer Reading finale was the much anticipated and loved, as Tanglewood Marionettes' production of Cinderella drew 179 people!



## **Bus Transportation for School Visits**

Thirteen elementary school classes from Florence Roche and Swallow Union (a total of 294 children) visited the library thanks to funding for bus transportation by the Endowment. First grade visits are scheduled for October with other grades planned for later in the school year.

## **Year-Round Children's Programs**

78 children in grades K-5 signed up for the Winter Reading Program, "Cozy Up with a Good Book." At the end of January AND at the end of February, each child who read at least 15 minutes for 15 days received a prize and a raffle ticket for a chance to win either a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble or a cozy reading gift basket.

### **Other special programs included:**

- 8 Tales & Tunes music programs for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with a total of 485 in attendance!
- Weekly drop-in preschool craft
- 5 LEGO WeDo Robotics workshops
- Paint a Mug program with Magic Brush
- Mini-Motions
- Halloween magic Show-Greg McAdams
- Puppet Enrichment

## **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten going strong!**

Since we started this exciting initiative last year-the program has become so popular that more activity journals were purchased with Endowment funds. The program encourages children ages 0-5 (pre-K) and their parents or caregivers to read 1,000 books before kindergarten. Each child receives a FREE 1,000 books activity journal, book bag, and stickers for every 100 books on their journey of reading 1,000 books!

**4,815 children attended 243 programs!**

Moving the collection



Teens using the new space

# Celebrating a Room of Our Own!

by Deborah Dowson, Young Adult Librarian

## Original Librarian's Desk Returned to Active Duty!

In keeping with its tradition of supporting custom furnishings to beautify and enhance the library, this year the Endowment funded the restoration (with light modifications) of GPL's original librarian's desk. After serving primarily as storage for many years, this gorgeous oak desk has been given new life and purpose today as the Young Adult Librarian's Desk, which suits the new teen space perfectly.



2018 was an exciting year for teens at GPL. In January we moved into our new teen space on the 3rd floor. For the first time, teens have dedicated computer workstations, and tables and lounge furniture to enjoy. There is more space to browse and enjoy the teen collections. The Endowment purchased a booth, barstools, an activity table and chairs, bean bag chairs, ottomans, and an incredible original work of art that will bring a dashing burst of color and life to the space.

While we have been getting comfortable in our new space, we continue to provide the popular programs and clubs that the teens have enjoyed in the past. Summer Reading featured a theme of music and we started with a Kick-Off Karaoke night complete with ice cream sundaes and lots of singing and even dancing.

Our events this summer proved to be popular with attendance up 76% over last year! There was a total of 457 attendees at 23 events. 267 teens read a total of 1,481 books which helped raise money for Hungry for Music and rewarded the teens with gift cards and free books. The Endowment provides all of the rewards for the teen summer and winter reading

programs and events. Last year our winter reading participation more than doubled and the amount of books recorded was triple that of the previous year.

During the school year, the Llama Lounge program on Middle School Half-Days is tremendously popular with teens visiting in huge numbers. Thanks to the Endowment's continuing support, we have an exciting and thriving teen community at GPL.

For a small library to display original works of art is not unheard of, but in this regard, GPL has been particularly blessed.

The Children's Room has its own original work of art, Exploring Hidden Treasures, which was supported in part by the Endowment. Now, it is our new Teen Room's turn. Everyone fell in love with an abstract piece by Rosemary Pierce Modern Art, with its bright colors, movement, and how it reminded many of us of a row of book spines on a shelf.

"To encourage the mind to be curious, intrigued, uplifted, inspired... bringing shape & color alive in a way that boosts the spirit... that is my daily passion."  
-Rosemary Pierce. Ours, too!

The back wall in the photo (right) displays the newly commissioned artwork: 'the adventures of an open mind' by Rosemary Pierce





Adults Mixed Media workshop

# Adult Programs: Something of Interest for Everyone!

by **Lauren Sanchez**, Adult Programs Coordinator

If you have yet to attend a program at GPL, now is the time! We do our best to meet the needs and diverse interests of our patrons, and because of the excellent programming support GPL receives, we are able to offer a large number and wide variety of enlightening, educational, and fun events.

This past year was particularly exciting for the performing arts, as Paul Speidel Jazz and Blues Duo with John Weisner had attendees' feet tapping to the rhythm; Celtic harpist, storyteller, and singer Kate Chadbourne inspired singing, laughter, and joy; Deborah Kalaora from History

At Play entranced her audience with her portrayal of Deborah Sampson (the first woman to fight in the American military); and New York City classical guitarist Francisco Roldan mesmerized a full house on a warm Saturday in June.

The always terrific Ted Reinstein spoke about New England's General Stores; Chef Liz Barbour delighted with her cooking demonstrations and delicious samples; a standing room only crowd came to hear Mentalist Preston Heller; the huge interest in genealogical DNA testing filled every seat for our two-part series; We the People: The Market Basket Effect Film

with Professor Scott Latham drew too many people to fit into the room; and we offered the earliest program ever (6:30 am!) with our Royal Wedding simulcast celebration on May 19.

From mixed-media workshops to coil basketry to painting with pastels to making your own soap, participatory programs continue to be very popular - always with more sign-ups than seats available! From arts & crafts to culinary arts to gardening, from local history to ancestral history, we are sure you will find something that grabs your interest at the Groton Public Library!

## 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.

### Courses offered this past year:

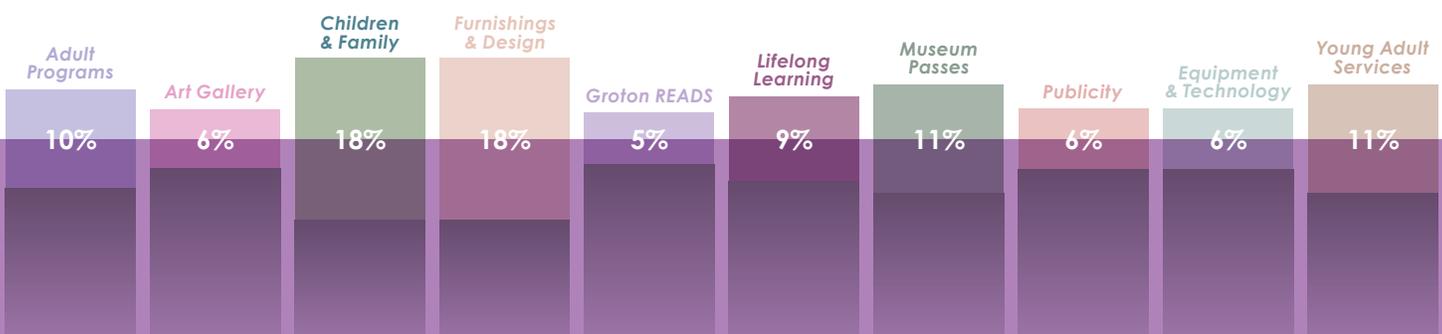
- Shakespeare's Hamlet and Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman: Two Very Different but Comparable Tragedies, led by David Ross
- New England Architecture: Settlement to Civil War, led by Nicholas Langhart
- American Art: Part I (1776-1900), The Great American West (1800's), Part II (1900-1950), and Part III (1950-1990), led by Art Matters

- New England Architecture: Great Buildings Since the Civil War, led by Nicholas Langhart
- Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
- Great Decisions 2018: America's Largest Discussion Program on World Affairs, led by Jim Simko
- The Boston School of Painting, led by Paul Ingbreton

### The GPL Endowment Trust also supports:

- Spanish Conversation Group, led by native Spanish speaker and Spanish Teacher, Verónica Mazzu
- "Stories Only You Can Tell" Memoir-Writing Workshop, led by Zoann Guernsey - a perennial favorite for more than 15 years!

## FY2018 Endowment Programs



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Bees, by Jeanne Borofsky



Above: Reception for Wendy Prest

Below: GDRSD Art Faculty members. Jonathan O'Connor, Cindy Goddard, Katie Boettcher, Rebecca Kostich



# Art Gallery News

by Ken Hansen, Art Gallery Coordinator

A homecoming opened our exhibition season as Terry Durell returned to Groton from her present residence of Portland, Oregon. She shared her landscape studies of the Maine wilderness with us while reconnecting with many old friends.

*Home* was the title and thematic thread of our next show, which included Terry along with a very distinguished roster of Groton based artists. The visions of Katherine Bell, Jeanne Borofsky, Scott Wilson, and Sharon Wooding adorned the walls (and, in the case of Jeanne Borofsky, hung from the ceiling) of Sibley Hall. Carol Canner mirror and sconce designs dressed up the room, and a documentary video by Mimi Matisse was available for view. I am especially grateful to Elizabeth Goldring for contributing her fascinating retina prints, allowing us to display cherished sketchbooks full of drawings by her late husband Otto Piene, and for delivering a public reading from *The Light Silo*, a collection of her poems accompanied by many of the Otto Peine sketchbook drawings. Quite special!

Next, *Water & Sky* brightened the room with color and warmth by featuring the lovely pastels of Wendy Prest. They offered a pleasant respite from the chills of December and January.

While the gallery had shown art by Groton-Dunstable High School students in the past, it struck me as a fun idea to have two shows back to back. The first highlighted students of the National Art Society and Art Club. The second introduced the district art faculty. I found it a delight to work with some exceptional young people and get to know our terrific art teachers.

Peterborough's Craig Altobello followed with *Stories in Wood, Mt. Monadnock to the White Mountains*. Craig employs the exacting craft of wood marquetry to express his affinity with nature. His hands-on demonstration was a hit.

Harold Sandford utilizes a different tool to similar inspiring ends. His photographed nature studies for *Life in our Backyard* charmed young and old throughout the summer.