

# GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure



Photo above: Reading together at the Library.

# 2019

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

## SUMMER READING WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

### Fan Fest Kick-Off Event

It was a phenomenally successful Summer Reading Program this year, as 1,133 people participated in the program – the most ever! But it was the Fan Fest Kick-Off Event on Friday, June 21 that shot the program into the stratosphere, as hundreds of people of all ages came to the library dressed in costumes of their favorite characters from stories – whether books, comics, TV, or movies (or all four!) - all fans were warmly welcomed at our celebration of fandom and the mutual love of stories that unites us all.

People entering the library were greeted by Batman, who - despite his busy schedule running Wayne Enterprises and his nighttime crime-fighting activities - generously posed for pictures and answered questions from many fans. But for our younger set, perhaps even more magical was Elsa from Disney's Frozen, who sang "Let it Go" with



Right: Visitors are greeted by Batman.

a jam-packed crowd in the Children's Room (including several kids dressed as Elsa themselves!) Kids waited for over an hour to get their faces painted by Elsa, who generously shared stories, answered questions, and spent time one-on-one with each child.

There were multiple activities that day for all ages to enjoy! There was a cosplay contest, a green screen photo area (thanks to Clare O'Neill, GDRMS Librarian), an escape room challenge, karaoke, and a scavenger hunt! There was heavy voting in the costume contests, for best hero, best villain, best homemade costume, and more! The

Dr. Who Scavenger Hunt had teens scrambling all over the library!

They were so fast at solving it that we recognized that we need to add more challenges next time!

Participation remained high throughout the summer for all ages – kids, teens, and adults!

More details inside.



Above right: Elsa from Frozen sings to an appreciative audience.

### We Love Our Patrons All Day Hygge Café was a huge hit!

The chilly temperature outside was no match for the warm welcome inside GPL on Valentine's Day this year. This iconic February holiday afforded us the perfect opportunity to show patrons some home baked treats and lots of heartfelt appreciation. Over 200 people stopped by to enjoy baked goods, warm beverages, and a hearty thank you from the Library Staff.

# THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and organizations who donated to the GPL Endowment Trust from October 2018 through September 2019.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

Vanessa and William Abraham	Paul and Mimi Matisse
Anonymous	Duanne Matters
Dolores Alberghini	Lorrie and Jonathan Morgan
David and Lucy Alexander	Morgan Stanley Grants
Benevity Community	Network for Good
Impact Fund	Laura O'Connell-Wylie
Patricia and C. Leonard Bennett	Bryan and Natina Perrotti
Elizabeth and Charles Bridge	Rita Rand
Bright Funds	David and Karen Riggert
David and Nancy Bugbee	Christine Ross
Terry Colosi	and Nicholas Miller
Community Foundation	Charles Schneider
of No. Central Mass.	and Adriana Alvarado
Richard Curtis	Kim and Janet Sheffield
and Sheryl Robinson	Edward and Elizabeth Strachan
John and Frances Feeney	John Tabaczynski
Fidelity Charitable Trust	Nancy Todd
Marc and Diane Gavel	United Way of
James and Adrienne Gmeiner	North Central Massachusetts
Paul and Geraldine Harter	Virginia Vollmar
James Herberich	Kristen and Alfred von Campe
Connie Keeran and Ted Lapres	James Wilber
Carla and Jan Kieleczawa	Nancy and David Wilder
Deborah and Scott MacDonald	Michael and Jennie Woods
Linda Mack	Your Cause LLC
Mary Grace Markham	David and Julie Zeiler

## 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 22nd 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, 2019, shows assets totaling \$2,844,033. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for programs and services for the Library. In FY2019, \$79,578 was expended for grants, and \$87,327 has already been approved for FY2020.

**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

David Riggert, Secretary/Treasurer

David Zeiler, Library Trustee

John Konetzny, 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.

# MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

The GPL Endowment Trust generously provided 23 free or discounted passes to popular museums and other local attractions.

Museum passes were used 1,168 times last year, which represents an estimated total savings of \$27,593 for library patrons!

The top ten most popular passes were (in order):

- Museum of Science**
- New England Aquarium**
- Discovery Museums**
- Museum of Fine Arts**
- The Butterfly Place**
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**
- Zoo New England**
- Peabody Essex Museum**
- Davis Farmland**
- deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum\***

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.

\*Please note: deCordova is now available under the Trustees of Reservations pass, which also includes Fruitlands Museum



## New Furnishings

The GPL Endowment contributed to the beauty and redesign of the interior library space by funding two new solid oak study carrels (to match existing) and four curved oak bookshelves to define and enhance our new adult book area. New furnishings were also purchased to create a more inviting café feel to the lobby. Stop by and enjoy!

## Web Site Redesign

In 2009, the GPL Endowment Trust funded the creation and design of our website [gpl.org](http://gpl.org). It was so beautifully constructed and timeless that we are still using it to this day – an astonishing longevity for such a rapidly changing time in web development. When we realized that we needed to design a new site this year, the Endowment once again generously stepped in to fund our new project. Library Staff are hard at work with an area firm to design a new site that meets all current technology standards (yes - including the long overdue mobile device optimization!) while also retaining some of the look and feel of our current site. Look for it to debut in early 2020!

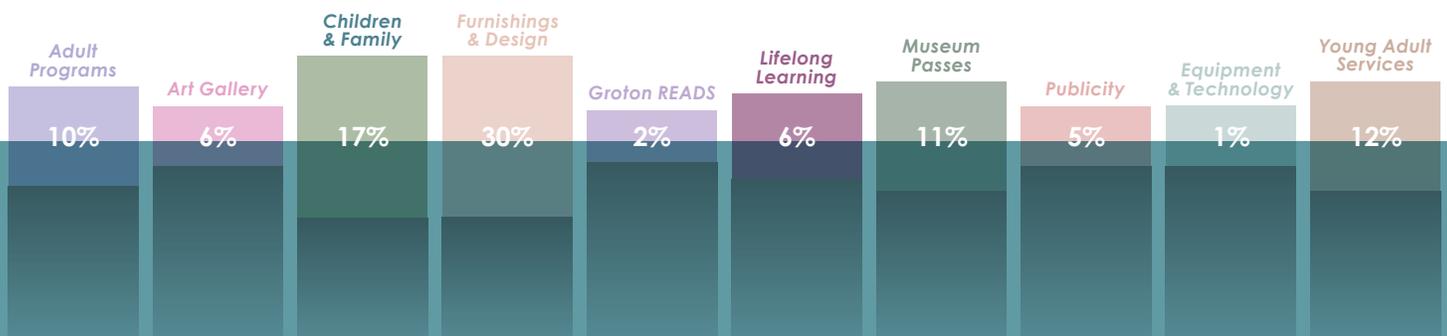
## Foreign Film Favorites is a fantastic night out!

Do you enjoy viewing award-winning foreign films on the big screen with a bowl of popcorn and a special treat to sample from around the world?

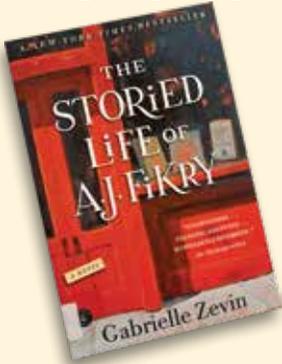
Foreign Film Favorites meets once a month to “travel the world together” without leaving Groton. A group of enthusiastic movie lovers has been doing just that for more than a year now.

It is said that one of the great rewards of watching foreign films is the infinite ways it can open up the world for you as a viewer. We agree wholeheartedly and hope more film lovers will come along for the ride.

## FY2019 Endowment Programs



# Groton Reads



This year Groton Reads celebrated **The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry** by *Gabrielle Zevin*, a 2014 novel about a curmudgeonly bookstore owner on an island off the coast of Massachusetts.

The book was selected for its engaging readability (one that many people reported reading in one sitting!), its setting in a small Massachusetts town, its focus on community, and its theme of how reading and sharing about books can bring people together.

There were many book-related programs to attend. It was a packed house for our February kick-off event with Ken Gloss, Rare Book Specialist and Owner of The Brattle Book Shop in Boston. In one of our best programs of the year, Campbell Harman brought Edgar Allan Poe to life, with his dramatic performance of *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Raven*.

One of the most endearing stories in *Fikry* is when the local Police Chief Lambiase starts leading a “Chief’s Choice” book discussion series at Island Books, so we decided to offer our own! Groton Police Chief Mike Luth ran his own “Chief’s Choice” event, sharing his thoughts on the book, what he enjoys reading, and reminiscing about the joy of visiting the Groton Public Library every week as a child. But the Chief wasn’t our only famous guest; we also did a live video call with Author Gabrielle Zevin, who was extremely intelligent, thoughtful, and charming.

**Join us in 2020 as we celebrate Groton Reads and Eats!**

## Adult Summer Reading Program

by *Lisa Baylis*, Head of Circulation Services

2019 Adult Summer Reading Program participation was out of this world!

We had 229 adults registered (up 67%) who read 1,962 books (up 97%!)

In addition, 32 adults completed the Blast Out of Your Comfort Zone Challenge (more than double previous years.) Patrons enjoyed exploring a galaxy of reading genres this summer. Many people mentioned that the challenge opened up a new world of reading options such as graphic novels and poetry.

We also hosted an assortment of fun and interesting programs. Some highlights were the always popular Trivia Brothers Night, Apollo 11 movie screening and 50th Anniversary Lunar Landing Party.

2019 Adult Summer Reading also supported a good cause! Thanks to these

avid summer readers we filled 35 night-time book bags for Transitions at Devens, a local homeless shelter. For every 3 books people read, The Endowment Fund donated \$1 toward items to fill the bags.

Readers who completed the Summer Reading Challenge were also invited to pack the Night Night Bag that was donated in their name.

Each Night Night bag contains a new security blanket, two age-appropriate children’s books, and a stuffed animal — all nestled inside a new canvas tote bag. Every child who receives one of the Night Night Packages leaves the shelter owning a book or two which encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal which can become a cherished friend.



**Adults who completed the Summer Reading Challenge were invited to a Packing Party!**

**We assembled 35 Project Night Book Bags which were donated to homeless children at Devens’ Transitions.**



The crowd is wowed by the large inflatables of Dinoman Space.

# The Sky Was the Limit for Children in the Summer Reading Program @ GPL!

by Karen Dunham, Head of Children's Services

646 children from 18 months to 5th grade joined the space-themed Summer Reading program, "A Universe of Stories." The exciting "Family Fan Fest" Kick-Off Event was a huge hit! Elsa from Disney's "Frozen" delighted with storytelling, singing, and face painting. Batman mingled with the crowd and posed for pictures. Everyone was in costume including staff, adults, teens, and kids at this amazing event!

## The Endowment funded several "Out of This World" performances which included:

- Toe Jam Band in Outer Space
- Blue Star Planetarium Shows
- A Loony Lunar Magic Show
- Story Time from Space: Stories read by International Space Station Astronauts
- ScienceTellers with *Aliens: Escape from Earth*
- Night Sky Telescope Viewing with the MIT Haystack Observatory
- *Dinoman Space*, featuring huge inflatable dinosaurs, comets, and meteors
- Rockets with the Museum of Science

The Endowment generously funded prizes and ice cream coupons from Johnson's Restaurant and Dairy Bar, which children earned by meeting reading goals and completing a Bingo sheet.

In addition to the space-related events, two overwhelmingly popular animal programs this summer were a petting zoo held in the library garden and a comedic dog show held at the Groton Country Club to over 200 in attendance. Musical events included the ever-popular singer Stacey Peasley and Karen K and the Jitterbugs. Families were "over the moon" for the Summer Reading finale, the Tanglewood Marionettes' production of "The Dragon King." A highlight of this amazing puppet show was the opportunity to go backstage and get up close to the hand-made marionettes and props.

## Busing

Eight elementary school classes from Florence Roche and Swallow Union (a total of 145 children) visited the Library thanks to bus transportation provided by the Endowment. First grade visits are planned for October and other grades for the rest of the school year.

## Year-Round Children's Programs

*This year 4,984 children attended 249 programs!*

84 children in Pre-K to grade 5 participated in the Winter Reading Program

8 Tales & Tunes music programs for preschoolers with a total of 495 in attendance!

41 weekly drop-in preschool crafts with a total of 967 participants

4 art teacher-led craft workshops

Tango the Groton Horse visited!

Toto the Tornado Cat— the title character in two picture books who, as a kitten, survived a tornado in MA

4 Preschool Yoga classes with Ellen Olson-Brown

Musical story performance of *Dragons Love Tacos* by Powers Music School

Photo right:  
Amy and a friend  
work on their  
Cosplay costumes.



## Fan Favorites!

by **Deborah Dowson**, Young Adult Librarian

Inspired by a presentation at the Massachusetts Teen Library Summit, GDRMS Middle School Librarian Clare O'Neill and I decided that a "Fan Fest" would be the perfect program to kick off GPL's Summer Reading program, "A Universe of Stories," and GPL staff agreed! We planned multiple activities to appeal to all ages and the final event was a blast! The teens had a cosplay contest, green screen, escape room, karaoke, and a scavenger hunt. It was wonderful to see the teens singing to the karaoke machine and the younger children dancing along! Another of our favorite events of 2019 was Trivia Challenge Night where adults and teens matched wits, skills and luck to earn points and prizes. Speaking of prizes, the endowment prizes are a huge motivation for teens to keep up their reading over the summer and winter breaks. This year, the summer reading program attracted 258 readers who recorded a total of 1,570 books, and we had 37 readers record 208

books in the Winter Reading program. Not only do our teens love to read, they also like to write, and this year we started a Literary Café for both readers and writers to share their interests. We also held a Story Slam where young writers could share their stories before a live audience. It's exciting to try new programs, and at the same time we continue to enjoy the popularity of perennial favorites such as our GDRMS half day program the "Llama Lounge" which continues to grow and attract scores of middle school students on every half day. Another long standing favorite is our Young Adult Advisory Council which continues to grow as more and more teens show interest in supporting the library through volunteering. Thanks to the endowment we are able to continue to provide teens with their favorite library programs and offer new opportunities, limited only by our inspiration and willingness to try.

Photo below: Teen room.



# INSPIRED *by* MOUNTAINS

**"The mountains are  
calling and I must go."**

– *John Muir*

There was an unplanned convergence of programs about mountains last November which called many to attend! With Groton Neighbors, Groton's own Craig John held spellbound a packed room about his experiences as a mountain guide on Everest. But for closer to home extreme weather conditions, Mount Washington Observatory's Will Broussard covered that in his "Tales from the Home of the World's Worst Weather." The Foreign Film Favorite selected that month was "Blindsight," a 2006 award-winning documentary about the gripping adventure of six blind Tibetan teens who climbed Mount Everest, led by blind American mountaineer, Erik Weihenmayer.

## RBG & Mr. Rogers

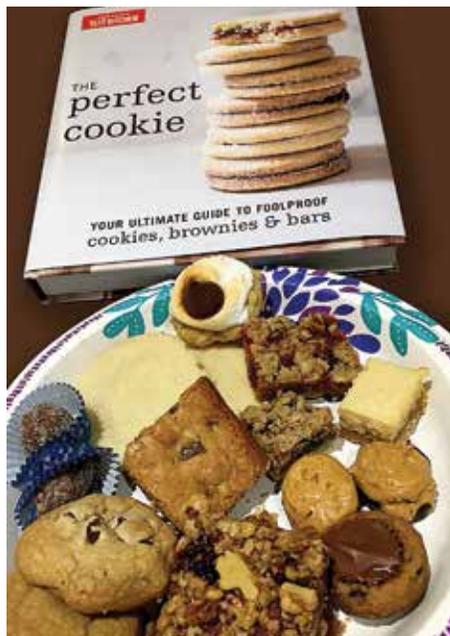
In cooperation with Groton Neighbors and Lawrence Academy, the Library hosted two special events last year, attracting over 200 people. First was the fall showing of the award-winning documentary, "RBG," about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, followed by a facilitated discussion with special guests, the Honorable Mary F. McCabe and Patricia Sullivan Talty, Esquire. In the winter, our hearts were warmed by watching the award-winning documentary about Mr. Rogers, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?," followed by a facilitated panel discussion with special guests, Dr. Laura Rogers, Peter Robbins, and Erica Hager.

➤ Did you know 10,500 people attended  
656 library programs last year? ◀

## Adult Programs: What's your go-to for "Me Time?"

by **Lauren Sanchez**, Adult Programs Coordinator

Whether crafting, cooking, gardening, reading, history, or the great outdoors, the Groton Public Library offers it all for free with quality adult programs.



This year we added the popular Cookbook Club for home chefs to explore and discuss different cookbooks, while enhancing and sharing their cooking skills. As always, hands-on crafting at the Library is incredibly popular; in addition to our regular felting classes by Groton resident Rachel Benson, adults also collaged with Rebecca Killeen Brown, metalsmithed with Heather Beck, pastel painted with Greg Maichack, made their

own mini-journals with Ali Manning, and bullet journaled with GPL's own Erica Belanger.

The Suburban Homesteader hosted Bethany Bellingham from Happy Belly Gardening who helped get our spring crops started. We had glimpses of our American history with performances by Stephen Collins as James Abbott McNeill Whistler and Judith Kalaora as heroic WWII women. Lastly, our fabulous book groups hosted two amazing author events: GPL Book Group hosted Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Paul Harding (Tinkers) and our Mystery Book Group hosted Edgar Award-Winning Author Kate Flora (Finding Amy).

### Some of our most popular events this year:

- Cooking demos with Liz Barbour
- Ageless Grace with Groton's Maria Skinner
- Body Intelligence with author Joseph Cardillo
- Total Life Cleanse with author Jonathan Glass
- Introduction to Arabic with Groton's Jamel Saafi
- Democracy and Its Influence on our Founding Fathers presented by Dr. Paul Keen (co-sponsored with the Groton History Center)

Photo above:  
Treats from the  
Cookbook Club  
for Home Chefs.



Photo right:  
World War II women  
presentation.

# Lifelong Learning

by **Vanessa Abraham**,  
Library Director

Learning never ends! Just ask any of the hundreds of people who participated in the lifelong learning opportunities this year at the library. For the art-lover, the terrific Art Matters presented their salon-style approach to the best in female artists, taught in two parts covering the Renaissance through the 20th century, plus Mother & Child, celebrating the special bond between mothers and their children as captured in art. For the history-lover, Nicholas Langhart captivated once again with his five-part series, "Cities on the Seas," about the great transatlantic liners: their time, impact, and legacy. If you prefer your history more personal, Catherine Bence offered a four-part course on Genealogical Strategies, Resources, and Searching Tips. For those interested in current events, Jim Simko once again led the Great Decisions Discussion Series on world affairs, with information provided by the Foreign Policy Association. Or, if keeping up language skills is your interest, our bimonthly Spanish Conversation Group led by Verónica Mazzu continues to bring in a loyal following.

For the more literary-minded, our monthly book groups continue to deliver. The GPL Book Group discusses a wide variety of modern fiction and non-fiction; the Great Books Group discusses the classics; and the Mystery Book Group shares their love of reading all mysteries, both fiction and non-fiction. Those more interested in writing books than in reading them have other options available through the library, including "The Bodies in the Library" Mystery Writers Group (co-sponsored with Seven Bridge Writers' Cooperative); Richard Meibers' Writing Creatively weekly series (co-sponsored with the Groton Senior Center); and the perennial favorite, "Stories Only You Can Tell," Memoir-Writing series with Zoann Guernsey.

**Read. Think. Engage. Learn.**

# GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

P.O. Box 401

Groton, MA 01450

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT NO. 122

GROTON, MA

## GROTON POSTAL PATRON



Above: Lara Loutrrel exhibit.

Below:  
GPL Office Manager Deborah Fleischman  
purchases a painting by Sarah Leon.



Below: Reception for Ruth Gamper.



# Art Gallery News

by Ken Hansen, Art Gallery Coordinator

Pharr Schulenburg adorned Sibley Hall with several of her large and spirited floral studies for our September season inaugural. Pharr shares a home in Eastham, MA, with her husband, painter Paul Schulenburg.

*Flora Fauna Fantasia* featured several artists and their fancifully imaginative interpretations of subjects from nature. Groton's Rachel Benson joined with Gwen Cory, Barbara Fletcher, Sarah Leon, Sam Linnane, and Marilyn Tavares for a pleasingly evocative array of styles and sensibilities.

The fragmented geometric abstractions of Lara Loutrrel intrigued me from the moment I first saw her work at Boston's Fort Point Studios. Her meticulously framed prints, with identical dimensions, made a bold statement in the room and provided a balance to the studied discord of her compositions.

Opening on Valentine's Day, we flirted with romantic emotions conjured by the moody landscapes of Bethany Peck. The show was titled *Dreamscapes*.

Groton had a taste of metropolitan with *Urban Settings*, a group display by Lowell based artists. Michele Boll, John Brickels, and Wendy James offered their respective interpretations of city scenes.



Above: Wall relief sculpture by John Brickels.

I met our final artist, Ruth Gamper, at the beach and invited her for the summer. From her Italian birthplace, via a time of her life centered in Germany, she is now settled on the North Shore's Plum Island. The idyllic seaside location informs her choices of subject matter, which she employs with prolific stylistic experimentation.