

Ensuring our Enduring Treasure

2020

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

Masthead image: Detail from Vermont Country Road, courtesy of Jack McCrossan Photography

Helping the Library Serve Groton During the Pandemic

The GPL Endowment Trust has provided so much to the library in its 23 years, but its assistance this past year in helping us address the COVID-19 pandemic showcased how invaluable it is not only to the library, but to the community as a whole.

The ability to turn around and set up staff accounts in Zoom to transition into all virtual programming started only two weeks after the building closed in March. Endowment funding made it possible for library staff to pivot quickly and transition nearly every program into a virtual

offering. This was a vital service to keep Groton connected and engaged with each other in a time of unprecedented isolation. When all town budgets were frozen from March onward, the Endowment made it possible for us to mail participation documents and prizes for those who were not comfortable using curbside pickup. For curbside pickup, the Endowment provided funding for reusable bags.

The Endowment paid for graphics and software licenses, which staff used to create visually appealing social media posts. GPL was there for the enrichment of

kids and families suddenly at home 24/7. Perhaps the most vital service the Endowment supported was supporting Summer Reading programs, as it does every year, but this year the support was essential for setting up more programs and enrichment than our reduced staff and frozen town budget would otherwise have been able to provide.

The Endowment is continuing to provide resources to the library to maximize offerings to Groton, including their new one-year-trial of Tutor.com! Check it out at gpl.org!

Groton Reads & Eats

by **Vanessa Abraham**, Library Director,

with **Kate Engstrom**, 2020's Groton Reads & Eats Event Coordinator



It was an exciting 16th annual Groton Reads Community-wide Reading Event with Groton Reads...and Eats! We provided a "menu" of five books – something for every reader's taste – from the fact-based *Food Rules* by Michael Pollan to the delightful memoir by Ruth Reichl about her time as the New York Times Restaurant Critic to a novel about connecting with departed family members through cooking their recipes. Before all library programming and activities were interrupted due to the state of emergency, there were food-related events with or at The Center, Salt & Light, Dolce Amar, Kitchen Outfitters, Luina Greine, New England Shirdi Sai Temple, Gibbet Hill, Forge & Vine, Blackbird Café, plus

many more food-themed events for all ages. Local eateries also got involved by offering discounts to anyone wearing a Groton Reads & Eats pin (earned by checking out a GR book) during the month of March.

It was an incredible event that had only just gotten underway before everything shuttered. Groton Reads and Eats will return in a future year, when the timing is right.



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.

The Trust supports:
Library Programs
Service Enhancements
Equipment & Technology
Special Projects

Dear Neighbor,

Greetings! 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.

The financial statement of the Trust as of June 30, 2020, shows assets totaling \$3,040,506. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for programs and services for the Library. In FY2020, \$79,390 was expended for grants, and \$91,185 has already been approved for FY2021.

As you think about your charitable giving this year, we encourage you to give to the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust. The Groton Public Library, with funds from the Endowment, has been instrumental in providing program continuity and community interaction during this stressful time. Please help support this important work.

To use PayPal, go to glendowment.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, John Konetzny, David Riggert, David Zeiler, and Vanessa Abraham

Adult Summer Reading

by Lisa Baylis, Head of Circulation Services



Our 2020 Adult Summer Reading Program, “Imagine Your Story” and the fun filled Magic Academy Masters Reading Challenge were successful on many levels. Together 122 adult participants read almost 1,000 books and shared their creative reviews on the library website. They won gift cards to local businesses (at a time when they can really use our support) and “earned” \$350 for the Loaves and Fishes food pantry (paid for by the Endowment Fund)! Those who “enrolled”

in the Magic Academy Masters Program enjoyed a summers worth of Hogwarts style activities and online programs. Some favorites were



The Art of the Perfect Cocktail Class with Liz Barbour, Felting Workshops with Rachel Benson and interesting lectures on Vampires in Literature and The Science of Fantasy by NECC professors. Combined programs for adults and teens such as Challenge Trivia Night and Magic, Mythology & Mayhem Escape Rooms brought families together. The Adult Summer Reading Program brought joy and community connections during a very unusual time. I agree with Mason Cooley when he said, “Reading give us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.”



Lifelong Learning Series

Spanish Conversation Class
with native speaker Veronica Mazzu

Great Decisions 2020
with Jim Simko

New England Architecture & Design
with Nick Langhart

Art Matters:
Norman Rockwell,
Portraits in Art,
and Music & Dance in Art

The History of U.S. Foreign Relations
with Tommy Lamont

Museum Passes

The GPL Endowment Trust generously provided 22 free or discounted passes to popular museums and other local attractions, including New England Aquarium, Museum of Science, Discovery Museums, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY PROGRAMS

by **Lauren Sanchez**, Children's Librarian

What an amazing summer we had in the Children's Room! With the help of the GPL Endowment Trust, we provided service through our enchanting, decorated window; offered a fun and rewarding summer reading program with our new "Brag Tags"; and engaged our young patrons in exciting virtual programs!



Cosi Carter enjoying making a toadstool lantern with GPL's Nancy Dumont via video with the materials included in her GPL Craft-to-Go kit.

Popular virtual programs: Animal Adventures, Eyes on Owls, Pajama Storytime, and Didgeridoo Down Under. The most popular programs of the summer were the GPL Craft-to-Go Kits & Activity with over 100 participants each week!

We are very happy we could participate in the Summer Reading Program this year! Boys had so much fun reading books, collecting badges, doing crafts and building LEGOs. All those activities helped to make our summer fun and creative! Thank you for doing this!

- Petra Scesnakova (8/28/20)

ADULT PROGRAMS

GPL offers diverse programming to interest every adult - from concerts to authors to travelers to crafting to cooking! Whether you joined our regular groups (Foreign Film Favorites, Book Discussion Groups, Writers Groups,

Cookbook Club, Knitting, etc.) or special events (The Work of 1000 at The Groton Center with NRW, GCT, and Groton Neighbors; Downton Abbey Teas; etc.), the Endowment provided support for every program in some way.

TEEN PROGRAMS

by **Deb Dowson**, Young Adult Librarian

From Llama Lounges and teens lounging in the library after school to Zoom classes and Instagram challenges, our young adult services were able to swiftly and readily transform to our new circumstances thanks to the support of the Endowment. The switch from in person to all remote programs required new products and services and thankfully the Endowment was able to help. We purchased a Nintendo Switch to host our online game club, we licensed servers to run the Minecraft club, and were able

to hire virtual presenters for activities such as cooking, drawing, theatre, trivia, felting and more. One thing that didn't change was our reading programs. We added a special Quaranteen Reading Program during the school shutdown, and as it was an online program it was simple to activate. The Endowment's support of all our reading programs, but especially our summer reading program, keep our readers motivated and they read more books per person than ever before.



Teen Librarian Deb at command central for Minecraft Meet-Up on Zoom and dozens of teen programs this summer.

ART GALLERY

by **Ken Hansen**, Gallery Coordinator

Gillian Frazier, *Nature Reflected*, September 4– October 27.
Works in oil on canvas and paper.

Country Kids Art Show, October 31– December 1.
Art by children of Country Kids Child Development Center.

Jack McCrossan, *Photographs*, December 3– January 31.
Exquisitely crafted photographic prints by Groton resident Jack McCrossan.

Gail Erwin, *Travels in Time*, February 5– April 4.
Cyanotype photographs of historic artifacts from numerous European sites.

Vermont Country Road, Jack McCrossan Photography



GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

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