

Ensuring our Enduring Treasure

2021

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

Detail inset above and photo below: *Tolerance* by Ray Ciemny

Helping the Library Respond to Community Needs

The GPL Endowment Trust has provided GPL with so much in its 24 years, but its assistance this past year showed once again just how invaluable it is to the library and the community as a whole. The Endowment makes it possible for library staff to respond quickly, adapt nimbly, and try out new programs to discover what works best. We are able to innovate and experiment with new

services, resources, and technology in a way that would be impossible were GPL restricted to town and grant funding alone. (Not that we can do without either! It's the symbiotic relationship between all three that best sustains the quality and excellence of the library and its offerings.) Never was this gift more essential than during these ever-changing and challenging times.

Website Redesign

In 2009, the Endowment supported the creation of our first-ever professionally designed website. It was so beautifully constructed that we continued using it through the end of August (an astonishing longevity in web pages.) Realizing we needed a whole redesign to meet current standards, the Endowment once again generously stepped up to support our hiring the same firm. Our website went live Sept. 1 with a simplified layout,

greater security, and additional features, while retaining much of the beauty of the original site. Most importantly, gpl.org is now optimized for mobile devices.



New Work of Art



Thanks to the Endowment, there is a new work of art to enjoy at GPL: Groton Artist Ray Ciemny's fantastic sculptural metalwork "Tolerance," was hung earlier this year on the top floor. Don't miss it! As Ray writes, "I try to give new life to metal objects that were once useful then have become worn or obsolete. I endeavor to create a nirvana for scrap."

Dear Groton 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 statements of the Trust as of June 30, 2021, shows net assets totaling \$3,983,886. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for programs and services for the library. In FY2021, \$78,762 was expended for grants despite the COVID closures, and \$106,802 has already been approved for FY2022.

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 able to adapt to changing circumstances in order to provide program continuity and community interaction during the past year. Please help support this important work.

To use PayPal, go to gplendowment.org and select DONATE under "Ways to Give." Or send a check payable to the GPL Endowment Trust to Post Office Box 401, Groton, MA 01450-0401 or care of the library. 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

Groton Reads MARCH

Beth Dalal and Owen Shuman, Coordinators

The biggest highlight for the year was definitely GROTON READS, our annual community-wide reading event, as we celebrated our first-ever graphic novel selection, *March* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin with Nate Powell. There were more programs than ever before as we collaborated with 11 other organizations thanks to the flexibility provided by Endowment funds. Residents connected with March and each other through words, ideas, discussion, images, historical recollections, art, food, nature, music, and more.

MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS:

- Co-Author Andrew Aydin “zoomed” in from the DC area for our special finale
- Sharing Our Stories: A brilliant panel of three mature residents and three teens discussing their experiences of civil rights in Groton in the 1960’s and today
- Residents Louise Gaskins and Marion Stoddart stole the show in sharing recollections about Groton in the 1960’s and their involvement in Civil Rights

CHILDREN’S & FAMILY PROGRAMS

by Lauren Sanchez, Children’s Librarian

Our Summer Reading Program kicked off on the same day GPL reopened its doors! It was an emotional and exciting day for staff, kids, and parents alike.

While we had many programs and events throughout the year only possible thanks to the Endowment, it was the Summer Reading Program that most warmed our hearts. We continued last summer’s big hit of brag tags for children plus a new badge reward for 5th graders. The new letterboxing biweekly challenge engaged 195 kids to run around library grounds, following clues until they found the hidden treasure.

We had amazing programs in-person and virtually. The summer finale for all ages included a 50-foot long inflatable Whalemobile that you could walk through while learning about how scientists study humpback whales, but

the biggest event of the summer was the kick-off event with High-Flying Dogs, which drew over 100 families!

Animal Adventures wowed kids with live animals, such as snakes and alligators. Virtual programs were popular too, whether making pet treats at home or learning about 3D printing.



Kids Craft-to-Go was also a big hit. Miss Nancy created to-go kits weekly that children could assemble at home, after watching her created and posted videos demonstrating the craft. An average of 240 kids participated every month.

After having such a successful and rewarding summer reading program, we can’t wait to start planning for next year!



Adults and teens enjoyed their own Summer Reading Programs– and residents responded! Over 700 people participated - 32% more than last year. Our philanthropically-motivated readers “earned” their way up to just over \$1,000 for our Tails & Tales summer charities, New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance and World Wildlife Fund. Over 100 adults read more than 1,000 books and shared their thoughtful reviews with each other. Many also enjoyed the Reading Challenge– reading from all different categories of “Tales,” including Tall Tales, Knight’s Tales, Cautionary Tales, and a Tale of Two Cities. There were fun events to attend, too.

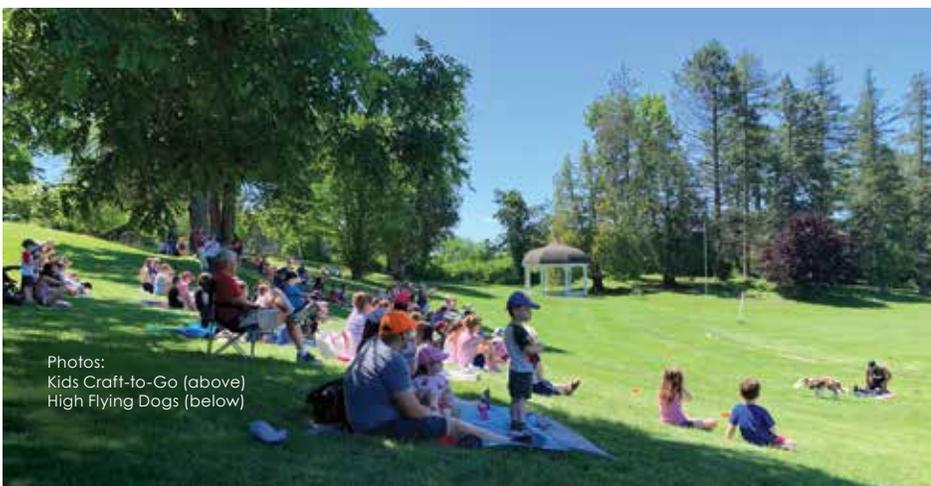
Patrons were very grateful for the opportunity to return this summer and participate:

I love all the Summer Reading Programs.

– Christine Stelzer

Thank you so much for running the Adult Summer Reading Program this year! My family really appreciates the wonderful library services you provide.

– Dory Clarke



Photos:
Kids Craft-to-Go (above)
High Flying Dogs (below)

Adult Program Highlights

by **Beth Dalal**, Adult Programs Coordinator

This year brought tremendous growth to adult programs! With the increased flexibility of zoom programming funded by the Endowment, patrons enjoyed a wide array of hands-on, minds-on, and passive activities. Felting workshops with Rachel Benson and a variety of cooking workshops with professional chefs were enormously popular and allowed patrons to actively participate, if not enjoy the smells and tastes.

Virtual programming also enabled us to partner with other public libraries to bring larger events to Groton. We partnered with 26 other libraries to present James Beard Award-winning author and culinary historian, Michael Twitty, and we will continue with more shared library programming in the future to further expand event offerings.

Finally, patrons loved the new Spice Club and Take and Make Art projects! There were up to 50 participants each month as participants explored cultures of the world through food and art.



Spice Club Hungarian fish soup, courtesy of Wendy Prest

Beth joined the library last year and we're delighted with all the new programs. Welcome, Beth!

TEEN PROGRAMS

by **Deb Dowson**, Young Adult Librarian

We were delighted to see our teens back in the library in June at the start of Summer Reading and they were just as thrilled to be able to browse in the teen section again, taking home arm loads of books and other materials! Our teen volunteers are excited to be back at GPL and helping out in person, while others found creative ways to contribute virtually, such as making science videos or writing book reviews for our social media pages.

Although we are able to provide a myriad of virtual programming thanks to the Endowment's support, it is wonderful to be able to host in-person arts and crafts



Above right: BattleBots Robotics Club
Below: "Leaf Some Love" Grotonfest 2021



classes and robotics club again and to offer the library as a destination for middle and high school students after school and on early release days. We also plan to continue online cooking classes, Java and C++ Coding Classes, Game Club, and Minecraft Club since we have discovered that they all work really well on Zoom.

From: Kim Loomis Gaboriault

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

To: Deborah Dowson

Subject: Re: Bread Making with Katie on Zoom

My daughter & I would like to extend our gratitude to you both for these fabulous classes over the past months... [she] has loved every one of them! She has learned some core skills and explored her independence in the kitchen, has made at least one of the recipes over & over again (the gnocchil!), and has taken great pride in her results. ...

Lifelong Learning

Read. Think. Engage. Learn.

The dedicated Spanish Conversation group continued year-round on Zoom, led by native speaker and facilitator Veronica Mazzu, while those interested in international affairs participated in our annual Great Decisions discussion series this winter.

The Endowment provides support for all lifelong learning, including providing a year's subscription to Tutor.com to directly support local students and job seekers suddenly working remotely last year.

Museum Passes

The Endowment generously provides 22 free or discounted passes to area museums and other attractions. This year, places with outdoor elements (Davis Farmland, Zoo New England, Discovery Museums, Butterfly Place, and Trustees of Reservations) were the most popular.

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 Groton Public Library and its abundant offerings of programs, services, and collections.

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.

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

P.O. Box 401

Groton, MA 01450

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We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and organizations who donated to the GPL Endowment Trust from July 2020 through September 2021. *Thank you for your generosity and support.*

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