

# Delight in Discovery at Your Library

Whether reading, studying, working, joining an activity, or sharing a special moment with family and friends, there is so much to discover at the library—and all of it FREE, thanks to the support of taxpayers and the generosity of the GPL Endowment Trust.



Photo courtesy of Steve Lieberman

The library encourages the joy of discovery and continually strives to be a safe, welcoming, and engaging place that is open to all. Inside its walls the possibilities are endless: pick up a book and get lost in a great new story, participate in an activity or conversation, or explore a vast array of topics through our collections, resources, and the hundreds of programs offered throughout the year for all ages and interests.

## GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

*Ensuring our Enduring Treasure*

# 2023

### REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY



## FanFest: A Huge Hit!

In June, FanFest kicked off Summer Reading with a bang!

Hundreds of kids, teens, and adults enjoyed a video gaming truck, cosplay workshop, Squishmallow bingo, face painting, storytimes, a costume contest, a green screen station, and much more—thanks to the support of the Endowment.

It was an overwhelming success and our biggest event of the year!

*Dear Neighbor:*

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 could not continue to provide as much as it does without the support of its community. We wish to thank everyone who has contributed in the past and invite everyone to continue to support this vital fund.

With funds from the Endowment, GPL has been able to adapt to changing circumstances and provide program continuity and connection through difficult times. As you think about your charitable giving this year, we encourage you to consider the GPL Endowment Trust to support the excellence of offerings available through your library.

Please help us sustain our community's enduring treasure, the Groton Public Library, with your generous support.

*Thank you.*

GPL Endowment Board of Trustees:  
John Konetzny, Samuel Morrow,  
Michael Woods, David Zeiler,  
and Vanessa Abraham

PayPal or Other Donation:  
Go to [gplendowment.org](http://gplendowment.org) and select DONATE under "Ways to Give."

Donations by Check: Make payable to GPL Endowment Trust and mail to PO Box 401, Groton, MA 01450-0401 or drop off at the library.

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### Mission Statement

The GPL Endowment Trust helps maintain the quality and excellence of the Groton Public Library by providing additional resources to ensure the continuation of the high standards achieved during the library's long history.

Income from the Trust is utilized to enhance, enrich, and supplement the funds already available to allow for more library programs, collections, services, and other special needs. This income does not replace funds appropriated annually by the Town or other funds managed by the Town for the support of the library.

The financial statements of the Trust as of June 30, 2023 show net assets totaling \$3,716,169. The Trust invests the principal and disburses up to 4% each year for programs and services at the library. In FY2023, \$106,531 was provided, and \$124,898 has been approved for FY2024.

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# Mind Your P's and Q's: Manners Camp

This summer we offered a two-day etiquette camp for kids ages 8-10 led by Emily Post Institute-trained Miss Carrie. Attendees learned why manners still matter in today's busy world, and how to navigate social situations, proper introductions, and everyday manners at school and while out and about. The second day focused on table manners, place settings, dining etiquette, and what is expected when you eat at a restaurant or as a guest in someone's house. We ended with a "formal" sit-down meal using our new skills and having fun!



## Adult Summer & Winter Reading

by Nicole Irvin,  
Head of Adult &  
Circulation Services

We held our first-ever Adult Winter Reading Challenge this year and participants read more than 350 books. We also had a great time with the Summer Reading Program, with 150 people reading 1,673 books! Many eagerly dove into the additional challenge to expand their literary horizons by reading books across unfamiliar genres, and several won small prizes for doing so, with one lucky reader winning the grand prize gift certificate to Gibbet Hill Grill. Reading is always a feast for the mind, but in this instance, a feast for the body as well!

## Children's Programs

by Lauren Sanchez, Children's Librarian



*Creative spark* describes the energy that permeates the programming and environment in the Children's Room. Creativity is kindled every day through unstructured play, tinkering, and exploring. Wooden blocks, puppet theatre, and imaginative props all invite children to find meaning in the world around them. The ever-popular freestyle craft station is always busy with crafters both young and old. The Endowment generously supports program-

ming that promotes vision, innovation, exploration, and creativity in all activities, such as coding with LEGO Spike; crafting parties; cursive and comics clubs; movement activities like hula hooping, juggling, and yoga; Tales & Tunes interactive performances; and much more—in addition to weekly storytimes, read to a dog, and book clubs that encourage literacy, language learning, and reading at every age and level.



Photos courtesy of Steve Lieman

### First-Grade Visits

The Children's Room staff welcomed back first grade classes from Florence Roche this fall after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. With Endowment-funded busses, we were able to bring all first graders to the library for a morning of orientation, exploration, and fun. Our important visitors toured the building, participated in a scavenger hunt, and many got their first library card! This exciting visit to the library is an experience that many will carry with them for years to come.

Hi -  
I just want to say thank you to everyone at the library today. My kids had such an amazing time and it surpassed what I was anticipating. I love that everyone dressed up, and there were so many activities for the kids. You all should be proud of today's event. We will certainly be attending again next year!

Thank you again,  
Michelle Parks

I just wanted to say thank you for all of the fabulous programming for the teens in our community! We all love our local library and everyone who works to keep it amazing!

- Kathy and Crew

Thank you so much for running this summer reading program! I love participating every year and supporting charities and local companies!

Best,  
Sarah Latario

Thank you for this awesome program, and all the fun and informative events during March. I learned as much as if I took a course! Also loved both books selected for Groton Reads & Gardens. Since I missed the Tallamy presentation of Nature's Best Hope, could you please email the link of the recording? Thanks!  
Now please take a Victory Lap!!

Donna Horvath





## Groton Reads and Gardens

We experienced the largest number of registrations in one month ever this year: 1,068 participants in the adult Groton Reads programs alone! Through partnerships with both the *Groton Garden Club* and the *Groton Grange*, we were able to connect Groton's devotion to gardening with *Gardening in Eden* by Arthur Vanderbilt II and to supporting nature with Doug Tallamy's book, *Nature's Best Hope*. In addition to all our garden- and ecology-related events, we also held our very first Tiny Art Show, displaying 4"x4" works by 100 participants of all ages.

*Groton Reads will return in March 2024 with a book and events on the theme of music in celebration of the new Groton Hill Music Center.*

## Lifelong Learning

Genealogy, European art history, world policy, climate change solutions, painting, and personal memoir writing—our patrons delved into all kinds of topics this year with the Endowment's support! These in-depth series are a wonderful opportunity to dig deeper into a wide array of fascinating topics.

## Museum Passes

Thanks to the Endowment, over 800 adults and families enjoyed free or discounted passes to 20 area museums and attractions. New England Aquarium, Discovery Museum, Museum of Science, and Butterfly Place continued as perennial favorites.

## Adult Programs

by **Beth Dalal**, Adult Programs Coordinator

Several new programs took off this year for adult audiences: our Sunday afternoon monthly concert series; "Let's Talk About It" Community Conversations, a small gathering dedicated to respectfully discussing challenging topics; Reading Ramblers, where we walked Groton Conservation Trust properties while talking about books; and our new Los Literarios group for participants to have book discussions entirely in Spanish!

An extended series of Zoom programs sponsored by the Endowment has allowed us to expand capacity, provide



convenience, and offer speakers from all over the country. The new music history program was so popular, we have continued it this year! Hands-on art programs continued to be a large draw, as participants eagerly explored flower arranging, watercolor painting, print-making methods, and collage.

## Teen Programs

by **Deborah Dowson**, Young Adult Librarian



From FanFest to GrotonFest, we can always count on our teens to support our events, facilitate programs, share their creativity, and contribute to our broader library community. In 2023, we had a total of 36 teen volunteers sharing their time

and energy to facilitate Endowment-supported programs such as Coding Class, Robotics, Minecraft, Dungeons & Dragons, Squishmallow Bingo, and Llama Lounge.

The Winter Reading Program saw a 60% increase in participation over last year, and around 300 young adults attended over 40 programs offered during the "Find Your Voice" Summer Reading Program! Youth from grades 6-12 gathered for songwriting, comic book workshops, theatre games, and escape room events. We are delighted that the Endowment allows us to offer so many opportunities for teens to learn, share, create, communicate, and explore.



Photo of Rachel Benson exhibit courtesy of Steve Lieman

## Art Gallery

by **Ken Hansen**, Gallery Coordinator

A posthumous tribute to **Martha Oldham** ran through the summer, followed by a painting exhibition by talented Groton newcomer **Bruce Pinto**.

Twenty-three artists contributed to **Flower Power**, lighting up the winter with floral and garden inspirations.

Spring hosted a display by **GDRHS** honor students, followed, in turn, by district teachers, along with art faculty from **Lawrence Academy**.

Groton treasure **Rachel Benson** dazzled us with her felt masterpieces to close out our season.

# GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

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