



GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ENDOWMENT TRUST

a report to the community

November 2000

Dear Neighbor,

As trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust, we are pleased to present this report to the townspeople of Groton on the third full year of the Endowment Trust's operation. Created in 1996, the Trust was funded through a town-wide campaign from 1996 to 1998 to which nearly 600 households contributed—over 15% of all families in town. The Endowment Trust's purpose is to fund collections (books and other materials), programs, and equipment beyond the substantial support of the Groton Town budget.

At the end of the fiscal year on December 31, 1999, the audited financial statement shows assets totaling \$1,283,127, a 7.0% increase over December 31, 1998. During the course of 1999, the Endowment received \$524,453 in campaign pledge payments, so that 93% of the Trust's assets are now invested, generating income to benefit your library. (A copy of the Endowment Trust's financial statement is available in the Library for interested parties to review.)

In this report, you will read details about those benefits funded by the Endowment's 1999 allocation of \$20,295. At our annual meeting, the trustees voted to make available \$35,300 in 2000, and this report also describes some of the items those dollars will fund.

We wish to thank each person who supported the original Endowment campaign and those who have joined our family of donors in the last year. We deeply appreciate your generosity, and we invite others to share in this community-wide effort to make the Groton Public Library the best it can be.

Sincerely,

the Groton Public Library Endowment Trustees

Albert Stone, Chair

Michael Manugian

Frederick Reynolds, Treasurer

Edward Strachan

Owen Smith Shuman, Library Director

Endowment Trust Aids Historic Records Preservation

In a collaborative public-private project begun this year and

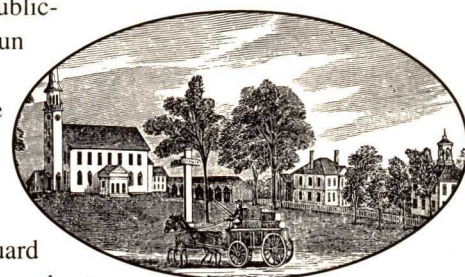
supported in part by the Groton Public Library Endowment, Groton is at the forefront of a

massive effort to safeguard historical documents throughout

the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In 2000, Groton became only the second Massachusetts municipality, after Quincy, to join an effort by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) to comprehensively preserve historical and official town records and make them more widely and easily accessible to researchers.

The cooperative project will microfilm and digitize records held by the Groton Public Library, the Groton Historical Society, the Groton Historical Commission, the Town Clerk, the Assessors' Office, the Selectmen's Office, and other Town departments. The digitized records will then be available worldwide via the websites of the Groton Public Library and NEHGS, while the microfilms may be viewed at both locations. The Groton Public Library Endowment trustees have allocated \$5,000 toward the cost of this project.

NEHGS has completed half of a similar \$250,000 project to film and digitize the records of the City of Quincy. The Groton project is estimated to cost \$126,000. In addition to the GPL Endowment's contribution, the Library trustees have allocated \$10,000 from the Robbins Library Fund, Town Meeting voted to contribute \$10,000, and the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation has contributed \$10,000. Private individuals have also pledged financial support for the project and several additional grant proposals are pending.



Note from the Library Director

This annual report to the community gives me the opportunity to review the year and enumerate the ways the GPL Endowment Fund helps improve and enhance library services and programs.

A lecture by author Bill Bryson celebrated the first full year in the new building in March 2000. In that year, support from the Endowment helped build the number of adult programs from 4 to 30. This included joint lectures with the Nashua River Watershed Association, author readings, a book discussion group and art gallery receptions.

Borrowing was up 40%! You checked out 173,693 books (and videos, magazines, CDs, DVDs, CDRoms) during this very busy year. Children's items accounted for 65% of the total. The Children's Room offered 147 programs including weekly story time, Tales 'n Tunes and PJ Story Time. And, our home page (www.gpl.org) and our online newsletter *Check It Out* have kept you in touch with all this activity.

In 1997, when the Endowment Committee asked the townspeople for comments and contributions, one person remarked she would give to the Endowment Fund if the library would develop a program for teens. We listened and are proud to report the Young Adult (YA) book collection and "reading corner" are very popular with grades 5–10. The Endowment sponsored the YA Summer Reading Program incentives of gift certificates that made a dramatic and direct impact on teen reading.

I continually receive calls and visits from other towns' building committees and librarians asking to tour our library. The consensus, even from the unbiased, is that we have one of the most welcoming, well-stocked, and beautiful libraries in the Commonwealth.

You, the donors, have made the difference. It is the support of the Endowment Fund that allows us to reach out to teens, introduce more seniors to the Internet and have original art in our local library. This fund enriches and enhances all aspects of our services, collections, building and programs.

A handwritten note I recently received says it all: "Many thanks to the library staff and all the others who make our library the best!" **You** are all those others and we thank you, too!



Owen S. Shuman
Library Director

The Trustees thank these new donors to the GPL Endowment, who contributed after the "Report to the Community" was published in Fall '99:

Nancy and David Bugbee
Kristin and Benjamin DeRuzzo
Judith and Gerrett Durling
Gail and Neal Menschel
Violetta and Col. John O'Donnell
Nancy Foley Wilder and David Wilder

www.gpl.org



For up-to-date information on:

- ✓ online card catalog
- ✓ upcoming art shows
- ✓ new books
- ✓ and special events

Who was Fishbait Miller?

Yes, the Internet is wonderful but libraries still need books! This year, the Endowment Fund purchased a 24-volume reference set that is invaluable to students. *American National Biography*, voted the "best reference work of the year," is the collective biography of the American people with over 17,000 entries of men and women who shaped the life of the nation. This resource allows students to find information on politicians, leaders, writers, inventors and even relatively obscure individuals, like Fishbait Miller, who are not listed in standard biographical sources. The *American National Biography* reference set makes finding biographical information as easy as opening a book—which often is faster than navigating the Net.

Fishbait Miller (so named for his diminutive size) (1909–1989) was Doorkeeper of the U.S. House of Representatives and author of an expose on the drinking, spending and sexual activities of many congressmen entitled *Fishbait: The Memoirs of the Congressional Doorkeeper* (c1977).

Art Gallery Proves Popular in its First Year

– Martha Oldham, Curator

Attempt a meeting in the Library's Sibley Hall these days and you find yourself surrounded by original art. The creation of an art gallery in the library was made possible with a \$3,000 grant from the GPL Endowment Fund. I was hired as the first curator and the first year proved to be fun, exciting and a lot of work. The Library Building Committee planned for the large meeting room, also known as Sibley Hall (named after the benefactor to the 1893 building), to become a space for original art. Upon the library's opening, the Trustees named it "Owen Smith Shuman Gallery" in recognition of the Library Director's work on the new building.

To create the gallery space, we first installed picture molding to provide architectural flow with the library detailing. Jeff McEvoy, husband of Reference Librarian Tina, donated his time to install it. Flexible lights were added that can be adjusted for each show and, naturally, improve viewing. The columns were painted to blend with the wall color and molding was added on them to hang smaller pieces.

Landscapes Near and Far was the opening show in October 1999, followed by *Drawn from New England*, which showcased regional artists. The winter show was *From the Artists' Valentine*, works by members of a local artists group who annually produce valentines for sale, followed by *Saturation Points*. The season's grand finale and perhaps the most popular show was *Summer Whimsy*, a collection of light-hearted pieces which ranged from a painting of high heeled shoes entitled *Golden Arches* to the *Peacock Prom Dress*

Throne created by local resident Martha McLure.

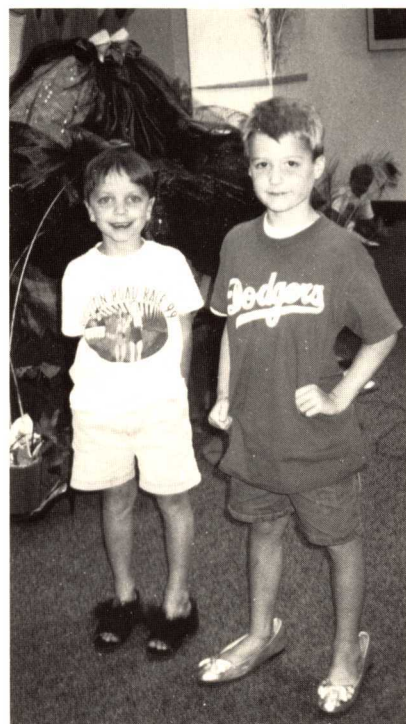
Each show had an opening reception with the artists and refreshments and were held on Saturdays to encourage everyone to drop by to see the works and speak to the artists. Each show involves the work and participation of not only the artists but also the staff, trustees, library Art Subcommittee, and the Friends of the Library. It is truly a collaborative venture.

Rugged Beauty (September 11–November 11), the first of five shows planned for this year brought glorious hand-hooked rugs to the gallery walls by local artisans: Anita Anderson, Isabel Beal, Lee Burton, Eileen Friedrich, Mary Wichtermann and Edith Wood. I am grateful to the Library Trustees and the Trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust for recognizing the importance of art in our daily lives and encouraging the blend of art and literature at the Groton Public Library.

Be sure to visit the library's next show, *North and West of 495*, November 14–January 6.



Martha McLure puts the finishing touches on her interactive Peacock Prom Dress Throne.



L–R: Keeton Brandt and Will Peregoy, both 6, stepped into some bright and shiny shoes.

Mark your calendars for

*the 5th Annual
Wine Tasting
to benefit the
GPL Endowment*

*Saturday,
March 24, 2001*

Endowment Funds 12 NEW Projects and Programs for 2000

The trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment voted to make available a total of \$35,300 for the Library's use in 2000. Projects and programs supported by the GPL Endowment in 2000:

LCD Projector (see pg.2) \$8,000

Children's Room Art \$3,000

Children's Room

Display Case \$1,500

Reading incentives for Young Adults
(see below) \$2,000

Art Gallery \$2,140

Gov. Boutwell Portrait
Restoration \$3,000

Collections (see pg. 5) \$2,500

Historic Records Project \$5,000

Outdoor Sound System \$1,400

Family Summer Shakespeare . \$1,500

Young Adult Summer Reading has Record Participation

– Gaye Kulvete

We kicked off the 2000 Young Adult (YA) Summer Reading

Program with an outstanding skateboarding demonstration in the Library parking lot by Concrete Wave of Worcester. Nearly 100 teens showed up for this event. The goal of the program was to introduce teens aged 11–16 to the newly-created Young Adult area, help them become familiar with the Library's YA collection, and keep them reading through the summer. Clearly, the program accomplished these goals.

A record 261 young adults registered for the summer program, a stunning 61% increase over 1999!

Of those, 65% earned at least one prize. More than half completed the requirements to receive all three available prizes. An initial incentive rewarded reading two books, with additional prizes for reading five and seven books during the June 17 to August 5 program period. In those weeks, 1,134 books were checked out of the YA collection; participants may also have read books from the adult and children's fiction collections.

On August 15, an Ice Cream Sundae Party concluded the fourth and most successful year that the GPL has offered a YA summer reading program. As parent testimo-

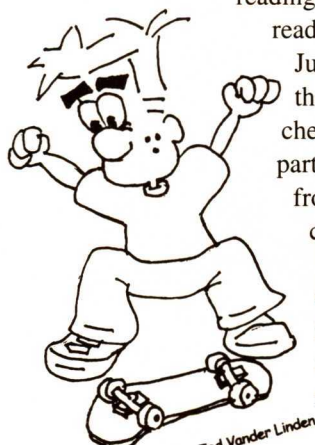


Skateboarding Demo was just one of the many popular events held for the Summer YA Reading Program.

"One of my daughters is an avid reader and the other is not. Frankly, the possibility of a prize was the sole motivation for one of my daughters to read at all."

– a Groton mother

nials report, the attractiveness of the reading incentives proved key to motivating teens to read. The program would not have succeeded so much without the substantial underwriting from the GPL Endowment. That support was supplemented by additional funding and donations of gift certificates from the Groton Trust Commissioners, the Friends of the Groton Public Library, and several generous local merchants.



Original art by Ted Vander Linden

Who will help you in the Information Age?

YOUR LIBRARY

While the rapid pace of change in modern life makes predicting the future ever riskier, there is no doubt that in the future, there will be more information than there is now. The more information people face, the more they will need libraries and librarians to help access, sort, and understand it. The GPL Endowment helps support the growing needs of the library as the need for information grows. *This Endowment is a permanent, non-profit trust, whose assets are invested in perpetuity to provide income for the Library's collections, programs, and equipment.*

The benefits that the Endowment has brought to our town will increase only as the Endowment grows in value. Bequests provide an easy, convenient, and universally suitable way to include the Library among the people and institutions we want to assure will be taken care of even after our death.

None of us likes to face our own mortality. But the truth is that, unless we each determine how we would like to have our estate distributed after our death, the State will take charge and make the decisions for us.

And the State's idea of what ought to happen to our assets may well be quite different from our own.

The only way to ensure that our estate—whether large or modest—is distributed the way we want is to have a will. A current will.

If you don't have a will, have one made. And if your will is ten or more years old, you ought to have it reviewed and possibly updated. Tax laws have changed that might affect your plans. And your interests, priorities, and family situation may have changed.

If you are writing or updating your will, please consider including the Library Endowment among your beneficiaries. You can bequeath a fixed sum, all of the residuary estate, or a portion of the residuary estate. In each case, the wording is very simple, and we offer here some sample wording:

"I give and bequeath to the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust of Groton, Massachusetts the sum of \$____." (or "...all of my residuary estate.") (or "...a portion of my residuary estate equal to ____% thereof.")

While contemplating one's mortality may be no fun, it is far easier knowing that we have thoughtfully planned to provide for institutions we know will continue serving our community.

Endowment-funded Equipment Expands Educational Programs

—Tina McEvoy, Reference Librarian

Thanks to the generosity of the Endowment, we recently purchased a Dell laptop computer and a Proxima LCD projector. This powerful and fast laptop has plenty of storage and memory. The LCD projector is a presentation tool that is used with a computer, a VCR, or a DVD player to project a high-resolution image onto a screen or blank wall.

This new technology allows us to improve and expand our educational programs for the public. In the past, our Internet classes were limited to 3–5 people because everyone had to crowd around one monitor to learn. Now, by projecting what is on the instructor's computer monitor, we can offer classes to larger groups at the library, or even off-site in the community.

I recently used the laptop and projector at the Groton Senior Center to show our web site and online catalog. Presentations have been scheduled for the Groton Woman's Club and the Rotary Club; e-mail info@gpl.org if you would like to schedule a presentation for your group.

The equipment will also benefit continuing education training sessions for staff, so that we can better assist you, our

patrons. One exciting possibility for this equipment is movie nights at the library. The combination of the laptop's DVD technology and the high resolution of the laptop and projector will create an extremely clear image that surpasses 16mm film and VHS videotape.

The laptop and projector make it possible for the Groton Public Library to raise the standard for educational and recreational programs for the public and for staff training. This gift from the Endowment enables us to utilize new technologies to improve services and programs.



Reference Librarian Tina McEvoy demonstrates the new laptop computer to Shirley Man at the Senior Center.



Rachel Gulick enjoys reading a book from the handsome, handcrafted oak bookcase purchased with funds from the GPL Endowment Trust.

Inventory Reveals Record Low Losses

Staff member Erica Belanger, using a barcode scanner purchased in 1999 with money from the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust, conducted the first ever inventory of the 50,000 plus books and other materials at the Groton Public Library. The project took one year averaging 6–7 hours a week. The goal was to ascertain the library's losses since automation in 1994 and consider the purchase of a security system if numbers showed it was warranted. The numbers showed we don't need a security system.

	No. of Items*	Items Missing	Percent Lost
Adult Collection	32,785	185	.564 %
Children's Collection	18,625	386	2.07 %
Total Collection	51,410	571	1.11 %

* Items include not only books but also videocassettes, compact discs, books-on-tape, and DVDs.

This remarkably low loss rate would make many retail businesses envious. Two other public libraries in central Massachusetts who recently conducted inventories reported losses of 6.5% and 10% over 3–5 years. The results for Groton tell us we are fortunate to live and work in a trustworthy community and to have a library staff that is diligent in the care of the books and in keeping them on the shelves.

**To make a contribution to the Groton Public Library Endowment mail to:
GPL ENDOWMENT, P.O. BOX 401, GROTON, MA 01450**

THE GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT

Friends of the Groton Public Library
P.O. Box 13
Groton, MA 01450

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 107
Groton, MA

Groton Postal Patron