

Groton Public Library ENDOWMENT TRUST

a report and appeal to the community ♦ November 2004

Dear Neighbor,

We, the Trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust are pleased to present our seventh annual report on the Trust's activities. The Audited Financial Statement of the Trust as of December 31, 2003, shows assets totaling \$1,320,519 after expenditures of \$17,176 on behalf of the Library in 2003.

During the course of 2004, the Trustees voted to fund twelve projects totaling just over \$31,000 for the current year. In this report, you will find details about these projects as well as news about Library projects funded by the Endowment in 2003.

The Endowment Fund was established in the late 1990's by a community-wide campaign. The Fund is invested with the goal of providing income to enhance the programs and offerings of the Groton Public Library. The Trustees, again, thank all who have contributed to the Fund since its inception. We invite newcomers and others to add their contribution as they may wish. We deeply appreciate your generosity and pledge to manage the fund responsibly on behalf of the Library.

This newsletter includes an envelope designed to transmit your thoughtful year-end gift. Your gift will help us in our efforts to continue making the Groton Public Library the best it can be.

Sincerely,
the Groton Public Library Endowment
Trustees

Albert Stone, Chairman
Joan Glutting
Edward Strachan, Treasurer
Owen Smith Shuman, Library Director
Robert Weber

LIBRARY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

On October 2nd over 100 townspeople gathered to celebrate the 150th birthday of the Groton Public Library. The Trustees and staff were excited to host a birthday party for the Library, and requested that the GPL Endowment Trust fund a historical booklet and a town-wide mailer to promote the Library and the event. The historical booklet, written by 150th committee member Kathleen O'Conner, gives a complete history of the library since its inception in 1854. It includes numerous photographs, including that of Miss Emma Blood—the librarian who skewed the statistics due to her prodigious 57 year service to the town!

In conjunction with the 150th celebration, the Library hosted a town-wide read "One Book, One Groton." This special event featured the distribution of 150 free copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird* donated by Groton School. There were four area discussion groups led by community leaders held at various locations around town. The event culminated in the showing of the movie at Groton School on Halloween afternoon. The Library is the center of the community and this event promoted community and a



Partygoers of all ages were encouraged to join in during the performance by Yankee Notions.

coming together to talk about a great book, and the characters and ideas that it addresses.

The Library and the 150th Celebration Committee are grateful to the generosity of the Endowment Trust in funding these activities and materials. The Groton Public Library is the eighth oldest public library in Massachusetts with a long and interesting history that deserves recognition. The earliest Library supporters like Abbott Lawrence, who gave the initial \$500 to establish a free public library in 1854, and Charlotte Sibley, who donated the land and half the cost of the building in 1891, would be pleased to know that their initial investment has grown and that Groton's Library is a beloved and well-used part of the community.

TRUST ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR 12 LIBRARY PROJECTS

The Trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment generously voted to make a total of \$19,377 available for the Library's use in 2004–2005. Library projects and programs to benefit from the Endowment include:

Net Express PC	\$1,650
Young Adult (YA) Summer Reading Program Incentives ...	\$2,478
Children's performers	\$4,000
Memoir Writing Workshop	\$1,200
Wireless public-access network	\$1,400
OSS Gallery operations and activities	\$3,500
Children's Reading Garden-Phase II	\$1,800
Library Celebration materials ..	\$1,700
Bench for non-fiction area	\$ 1,200
Climate control system for Historical Room	\$10,000
Author Visit	\$1,500
Book Display Cubes	\$700

WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE?

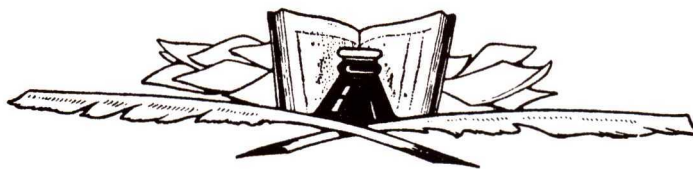
The GPL celebrated its 150th birthday this year and will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

The Endowment helps make your library unique by supporting the programs, services, and special collections shown in this newsletter.

Please take a moment to use the enclosed envelope and mail (or drop off at the library) a contribution to the Endowment.

Why give? Because a gift to the Library benefits everyone, including you.

STORIES ONLY YOU CAN TELL



Taking part in a memoir writing workshop, led by Zoa Guernsey at our library, is a rare treat I recommend to all who have stories to tell, as well as those who believe they have nothing to say.

Zoa was able to hone my long dormant skills into very readable prose, appealing enough to leave the reader eager to get on to the next chapter. Zoa has the key, she unlocks the door. And I wasn't alone in developing in unexpected way—our classmates blossomed visibly, almost as we watched. We inspired each other as Zoa succeeded in leading us skillfully through the many mazes of opening lines, important details, sentence structures, dialogues, sounds, smells, sights, feelings. We found ourselves digging deep into long-forgotten territory, suddenly able to take the reader by the hand and on the journey with us. Friendships were made. Confidences shared. Trust grew. And finally, what could be more rewarding, thanks to such patient coaching, than to look up from my many manuscripts to see my three children, themselves so talented, standing on the sidelines, applauding?

—Barbara Bruner, Groton resident, August 2004

The GPL Endowment was pleased to once again offer, free of charge, the popular memoir writing workshop with Zoa Guernsey. The following is an excerpt from Mrs. Bruner's, autobiographic work. Though we cannot reprint her piece in its entirety, we are pleased to share with you her last three paragraphs. In this memoir, Mrs. Bruner is a young, newly-married woman describing her first job with a difficult boss.

"...I took that chance. He threw his papers at me for what I knew had to be the last time. I was tired of being addressed so anonymously as 'hey you.' I stood, raising myself up to my full height and threw the papers back. There was an immediate hush in the room. Thirty-one pairs of eyes were fastened on us. 'Mr. Clark,' I said, in a clear, even voice, 'I have a name just like everyone else in this office. If you don't know it, I suggest you find out what it is and address me properly from now on.' Thirty-one pairs of ears were listening intently. Mr. Clark just stared at me, then gathered up his untyped papers and walked away without uttering a word.

I slept fitfully that night and I was not at all sure I would still have a job when I walked the six blocks to the newspaper the next morning.

I was acutely aware of Mr. Clark's arrival promptly at 8 o'clock, but this time, instead of turning in at the coat room, as was his usual custom, he strode directly to my desk, doffing his Homburg and making an elegant, deep bow. As I looked up at him and smiled, he smiled back, and said quietly: 'Good morning, Mrs. Bruner.'"

A fall Memoir Writing workshop is currently being offered. Sign-ups begin January 2005 for another six-week session in April. Check www.gpl.org for more information.

CHILDREN'S READING GARDEN

The Endowment donated funds in 2003 that partially paid for building an attractive stone wall and walkway along the side of the building that culminates in a stone reading circle.

On a clear day last fall the library dedicated the Children's Reading Garden to retired Children's Librarian, Geri Perry. It is off set with a shaded bench at just the right distance for watching and listening to the librarian and children as they listen to books and enjoy the beauty of the area. As it turns out the Garden is a gathering place not only for children, but teens have been seen hanging out on the rocks, and library staff and other adults use it as a lunch gathering spot. Phase II of this project was funded in 2004 and the final touches were completed this summer. Flowers (sedum, ornamental grasses, stella d'oro lillies, and yarrow) that will add color and life to the area were planted outside the Children's Room windows. Variegated red twig dogwood and greenwave yews soften the circle and add a sense of shelter.

Yews and lilacs were planted on the property line to provide privacy and to clearly delineate the library's property. The passageway invites visitors to admire the stonework, plantings, and possibly notice a book of iron left on the bottom of the wall and wonder who left it.



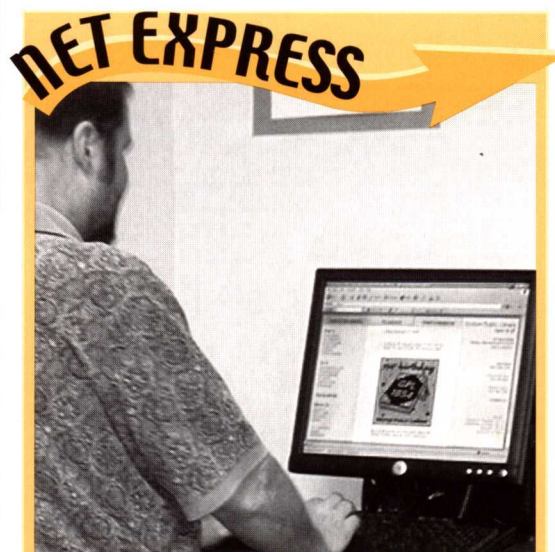
Enjoying the Garden's rock benches are, L-R, Anna and Jessica Fuseri and Eric and Adam Giniger.



Endowment Trust leadership, L-R, Bob Weber, Al Stone, chairman, Owen Shuman, library director, Ed Strachan, treasurer, and Joan Glutting.

WI-FI NETWORK @ GPL

Grotonians will soon learn that the Library is the hot spot in town in more ways than one. In early 2005 a wireless computer network will be installed as a new library service due to a gift from the GPL Endowment Fund. Once installed, people will be able to connect to the Internet in (or just outside) the library from their own wireless-equipped laptop computers and other devices. Once connected, they can go anywhere in the library and maintain the connection. Access will be available on all three floors. Parents in the Children's Room can IM or email their friends while their kids attend a program. Students will research term paper topics while seated in a quiet study room. Anyone can access the Internet, without having to wait for one of the library's public Internet computers. With the establishment of this wireless "hotspot," Groton will join a small but growing number of forward-looking public libraries who are adopting wireless networks as the next advance in Internet technology thanks to the Groton Public Library Endowment.



"This is exactly what I needed!" library users have exclaimed when they see the new Web Express computer in the Reference area. Thanks to funding from the Endowment, this PC is for your Web surfing convenience. Step right up and enjoy 15 minutes of Web time—no signup required. The seven other Internet computers are heavily used, so the Web Express should alleviate the 'net traffic jams.' The Web Express computer has the same lightening fast broadband Internet connection as the other library computers.

NEW CURATOR SELECTED FOR LIBRARY'S ART GALLERY



Library Director Owen Shuman and new OSS Gallery Curator Barbara Mellin.

The Library's Art Committee recently chose Barbara Mellin of Chelmsford to serve as the new curator for the Owen Smith Shuman Art Gallery.

Barbara Mellin's life has been immersed in the arts for over 30 years. She is currently on the faculty of Middlesex Community College and Northern Essex Community College. She is a columnist for *Renaissance* magazine and a freelance writer, whose articles about the arts, culture, and travel have appeared in *American Art Review*, *The Boston Globe*, among others. Barbara is the former creator and editor-in-chief of *Arts Around Boston* magazine and arts editor at the *Middlesex Beat*. Prior to that, she was the teaching director of The Young Artist Studio in Reading for 20 years. Barbara also co-founded Arts First, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting creative individuals of all ages and disciplines. In addition, she is working on a documentary based on her award-winning thesis from Harvard University about the American artist Frank Vincent DuMond.

Barbara is excited about her new role as curator. She believes strongly in bringing art to a wide audience and thinks the public library is a perfect venue. She plans to feature a variety of artistic subjects, media, and styles in the gallery. Since Groton will be celebrating our 350th anniversary in 2005, she expects many of the exhibitions in the next

year to have a Groton focus.

One planned exhibit will involve photographs showcasing "Who We Are." All Groton residents are encouraged to send a photo (or several) for consideration. It might be a photo of your great grandmother in the "Old Country" or your newest grandson's first birthday. Photos of family celebrations, solemn events, vacations, everyday life, are all welcomed. We want to show our rich heritage and future promise. All photos will be returned. (Not all photos will be included in the exhibition.) Please send your color or black-and-white photos to: Barbara Mellin, 854 Wellman Avenue, Chelmsford, MA 01863 or digitally (JPGs) to bamellin@post.harvard.edu. Please include your name, return address, and a few sentences explaining the photo.

"I appreciate that the GPL Endowment supports the library's efforts to have an active art gallery through offering a stipend for the curator position which helps to ensure there are interesting exhibits for the whole community. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the third curator for this gallery," stated Ms. Mellin.

UPCOMING OSS GALLERY EXHIBITS

Nov. 4–Dec. 26

The Imagined Landscape; works by Gracia Dayton, Willoughby Elliott, and Dinora Felske Justice

Jan. 6, 2005–Mar. 4

Groton Artist Dianne Bunis
Scenes from Groton and other works

March 2005

Groton Students Create
Exhibition of artwork by students from Groton-Dunstable Regional High School, Groton School, and Lawrence Academy.

May 2005

Advertising and commercial art of the '40s and '50s

Jul. 15–Oct. 15, 2005

Who We Are
Photographic exhibit by Groton residents.

YOUNG ADULTS TAKE THE GOLD FOR READING

The Young Adult Summer Reading program is a well-established and eagerly anticipated event at the library. The goal of the program is to introduce teens in grades 6–12 to the

Young Adult area, familiarize them with the Library's YA collection and keep them reading through the summer. GPL consistently meets these goals with exceptional results due in large part to the incentives granted by the Endowment Fund that include movie tickets and \$15 gift certificates.

This year the Groton Public Library broke Olympic-size records for reading.

A total 206 participated and 114 students completed the program to receive all three prizes. By comparison, in 2003, 138 participated and 75 received all three prizes. This is a **52% increase** of teens who completed the program by reading a whopping 2,561 books! Incentives were rewarded for reading 2, 6 and 10 books and everyone who participated was able to receive at least one of the prizes.

Statistics show that in communities our size (pop. 5,000–15,000),

Groton ranked number one for registration and participation in a Young Adult Summer Reading Program.

Mrs. Kulvete kept teens reading and busy with increased program offerings. There were five movies in the ever popular YA Movie Café and a game night. A highlight of the summer was a visit from college student and author, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes, who enthralled teens as she spoke of writing and getting her first book published at the age of 14.

Nationally, a majority of students stop reading for pleasure once they enter middle school. The attractiveness of reading incentives sponsored by the Endowment motivates our young people to read. The Groton Public Library's Young Adult Program is so successful because of substantial funding from the Groton Public Library Endowment along with supplemental funding from the Groton Trust Funds, the Friends of the Groton Public Library, and several generous local merchants.



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES OFFERED

The Endowment funded two events for this year's Children's Summer Reading Program: Davis Bates, a storyteller and singer, and a puppet show by Drawbridge Productions.

Davis Bates enchanted his audience with stories from Africa, Asia and other places around the world, in keeping with our Summer Reading theme for this year, which was "Explore Other Worlds @ Your Library."

Drawbridge Productions performed *Aladdin* with marionettes. They assembled a stage in Sibley Hall with lights and shadow puppets, and after the performance, they took down parts of the stage and



Getting into the act are, L–R, Andrew Carney, Callie MacPherson, Jacqueline Forbes, and Erin Scanlon.

showed the children how the puppet magic was created.



Drawbridge Productions performed *Aladdin* with their marionettes.

"We were impressed with the versatility of the marionettes and the artistry of the show. My son was fascinated and had to go home immediately and play with his marionette horse named Thom. We are grateful that we have the Endowment fund which enables us to provide our children with diversified forms of entertainment," said Rosie Pellizzari. Cato Bubnikowicz, another mother at the show

commented that, "My daughter loved the puppet show as well as the interaction with the puppeteers when they explained the various kinds of puppets they used."

This fall, the Endowment will once again fund the Tales and Tunes program which continues through May 2005. Tales and Tunes is an extremely popular program which features a different performer every month to entertain children from infant to age 6.

Funding from the Endowment allows us to create exciting, varied programs for children. Special performances like these enhance the Summer Reading Program, and provide an opportunity for children to experience the performing arts.

Annual Wine Tasting **Benefit**

Saturday, March 19, 2005
7-10:00 p.m.
The Barn at Gibbet Hill

Enjoy a grand evening of wine tasting while supporting the Groton Public Library Endowment. Over 50 wineries represented — pouring everything from sparkling wines to bold ales.

Tickets: \$30 in advance
\$35 at the door



Groton photographer Dianne Bunis will exhibit her large format photography of Groton scenes in the Library's Owen Smith Shuman Gallery, January 6–March 4, 2005. Above: *Hillbrook Orchard I*, Groton, gelatin silver print, 16 x 20".



To support these and future programs, please consider making
a contribution to the Groton Public Library Endowment

Mail your gift to:
GPL Endowment, P.O. Box 401, Groton, MA 01450

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