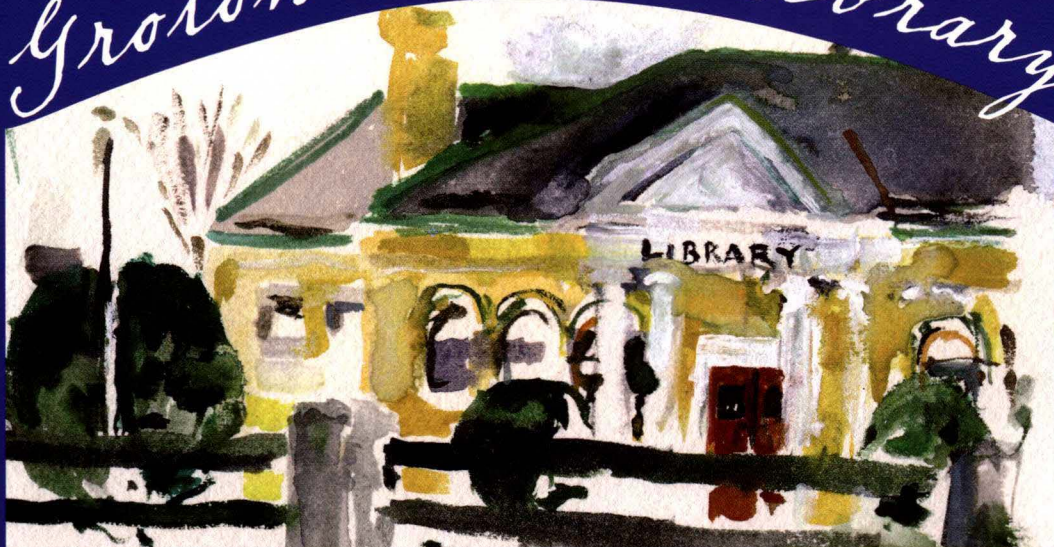


# Groton Public Library



## ENDOWMENT TRUST

### BEYOND BOOKS

Over one quarter of one million dollars (\$261,408) has been expended in the last decade to enrich your and your family's experience at the library. This appreciative letter from a local parent was written in response to our Summer Reading Program, one of the numerous programs that are made possible by the Groton Public Library Endowment Fund. If you use the library, it is most likely that you or a family member have benefited from one or more of the programs, services or general enhancements to the library that this unique fund provides. A library still offers books, and

Dear Ms. Shuman and the Groton Library Staff,  
I wanted to take a few minutes to express my sincere thank you for all your hard work during the summer!

I was amazed with your organization and warm excitement toward my children... We thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful shows and craft activities offered throughout the summer thanks to funding from the GPL Endowment.

The staff always greeted us with welcoming hellos and smiles. With the economy being in the state that it is, you have made staying close to home this summer memorable!

Thank you again for your wonderful use of the Endowment Fund. We have truly enjoyed our numerous trips to the library.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth, a Groton parent



*A father and his daughter got a closer look at the star of The Dragon King after the Tanglewood Marionettes show celebrating this year's Summer Reading Program.*

contrary to some predictions, books are still popular and reading is up. Yet the library now goes beyond books and that is due in large part to the Endowment. This fund allowed us to buy computers a decade ago, to offer WiFi in

BEYOND BOOKS continued on page 3



Dear Groton Neighbor,

We, the Trustees of the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust, present this report to you at the end of the eleventh year of the Endowment Trust's operation. This newsletter reports details of the Trust's activities, showcases the ways in which the Trust benefits the library, and appeals for your continued support.

The financial statement of the Trust as of June 30, 2008, shows assets totaling \$1,810,623 after expenditures of \$58,149 on behalf of the Library during fiscal year 2008. The financial report is available at the Library for interested persons to review.

During FY '09 the trustees approved \$63,830 for community projects and library enhancements currently underway and planned. You will find details about these items as well as past projects throughout this newsletter.

The Endowment Trust was established in 1998 with funds donated by the citizens of Groton. It provides a stream of investment income which makes the Groton Public Library the best it can be. We wish to again thank those who contributed in the past and to invite all of you, newcomers as well, to consider making additional gifts to the Endowment. Please keep your newsletter along with the enclosed envelope as a reminder to include Groton Public Library Endowment Trust in your annual giving plans.

Sincerely,

The Groton Public Library Endowment Trustees  
Albert Stone, Chairman  
Edward Strachan, Treasurer  
Robert Weber  
Dave Zeiler  
Owen S. Shuman, Library Director

## THANK YOU

The following individuals made gifts to the Endowment Fund from November 2007–November 2008. They support the Endowment because they recognize the value it adds to their library experience and we thank them! Won't you consider doing the same? The many hours of volunteer service and in-kind donations made by individuals are greatly appreciated, but are not listed here.

Dolores Alberghini	Nancy Krolewski and
Debra and Stephen	David Woods
Boczenowski	Laura K. LaMalva
Elizabeth and Charles	Connie and Ted Lapres
Bridge	Linda Lea and Jamie E.
Nancy and David Bugbee	King
Dianne and Henry Bunis	Ruth and Duane
Ann Corbey and Stephen	Matters
Painter	Mary and Edward
Mary and George Curry	Mitchell
Dorothy N. Davis	Lynda Moore and
Jody Russell-Dobson	Alexander Woodlee
Marjorie and William	Maria and Eric Noya
Eger	Janet and Robert
Alison and Richard Enright	Paninski
Janet Fertig and Marshall	Edythe Salzman
Giguere	Chuck Schneider
Nancy M. Hughes and	Karen and Jim Serach
Craig N. Gemmell	Lynn and Daniel Sheehy
Peter Fry and Gretchen	Janet and Kim Sheffield
Hummon	Iris and Richard Staub
Jim Fraser and Ruth	Kristen and Rob Stone
Goldenberg	Barbara Z. Stromsted
Zoa and Peter Guernsey	Virginia A. Vollmar
Karen and William Harte	Audrey Western
Eloise and Peter Kanowsky	Scott and Susan Wiggins
Christine and Christopher	Nancy and David Wilder
Kelley	Laura and Gregory
Amy Kilham and	Yanchenko
Scott Wilson	

Special thanks to Debbie MacDonald, volunteer administrative assistant to the GPL Endowment for her many hours of work on behalf of the Endowment. Mrs. MacDonald is responsible for the annual newsletter, correspondence and acknowledgment of gifts to the fund. She attends the Trustees meetings, takes the minutes and keeps the board organized and running smoothly. We are indebted to her for this gift of her time and talents.



## BEYOND BOOKS continued from page 1

2004 and to create a laptop lab this year. The Endowment Fund truly makes a difference in the quality of our collections, services and projects. Please take a moment to review the highlights of gifts from the Endowment and see which ones you have benefited from.

### CHILDREN

- Children's Reading Garden
- Children's Room mural
- Programs and activities: authors, musicians, marionettes, storytellers, drummers, artists, illustrators, singers, animals—from huskies and wolves to frogs and hedgehogs—fairy houses, magicians and poets
- Books and storytime materials

### TEENS

- Programs and activities: Gompei the robotic goat, 'tween game nights, Guitar Hero, authors, cartoonists, skateboarding demo, battle of the bands, Steampunk and poetry workshop
- Prizes and collections: Nintendo Wii, event refreshments, reading incentives (movie passes, gift certificates, ice cream), duct tape crafts, Frisbees, books and DVDs

### ADULTS

- Noted authors: Kate Braestrup, Gregory Maguire, Anita Diamant, Bill Bryson and Andre Dubus III
- Re-enactors for Walt Whitman and Robert Frost
- GrotonREADS, a community-wide reading event
- Shakespeare performance
- Collection enhancement

### PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT

- WiFi & Net Express PC, computers and networked printer
- LCD projector
- Laptop Lab with 10 laptops for training
- Staff training in Reader's Advisory skills
- Outdoor sound system
- Handcrafted oak bookcases and computer stations

### COLLECTIONS, ART AND PROJECTS

- Preservation and digitization of 18 volumes of the Town Diaries project
- Oil portrait restoration
- Art gallery with curator
- Library homepage upgrade (coming in 2009)

## New Laptop Lab at GPL



*The Endowment funded the purchase of a laptop computer lab with 10 computers and a storage cart. The library offered classes last spring on blogging (Web-based diaries) and digital photography and video. More classes will be offered this fall and winter. Check out [gpl.org](http://gpl.org) for upcoming programs and workshops with the laptops!*

*The laptops were also well received by the teenagers who attended Llama Lounge half-day programs. When not in use for other purposes, the laptops are available for patron use inside the library.*

## REMEMBERING FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Memorial gifts to the Groton Public Library Endowment, such as those made in honor of Elsa Hayes in 2004 and Mary Ida Tanguay in 2005, are a thoughtful way to remember a person who was important to you during their lifetime. Each memorial 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 library and its abundant offerings.



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS ABOUND YEAR ROUND

This fall the Endowment will once again fund the Tales and Tunes program which continues through May 2009. Tales and Tunes is an extremely popular program which features a different musical performer every month to entertain children from infant to age 6. The program always fills to capacity.

In addition, many materials were funded to enhance our programs including flannelboard stories and Big Books for preschool storytimes, and multiple copies of board books for Mother Goose storytime. Replacement books and books on CD for beginning readers were also purchased.

The Endowment funded four events for this year's Summer Reading Program "Wild Reads at Your Library": Magician Steve Rudolph, Storyteller Susie Magoozy, the Toe Jam Puppet Band and the Tanglewood Marionettes. Over 700 hundred children—in grades preK–Grade 5—registered for the SRP and 551 children read at least 5 books. The

Endowment gave \$2,400 for SRP incentives. Weekly raffle prizes, ice cream passes and gift cards were strong motivators for children to keep reading this summer.

Maryann Cocca-Leffler, author and illustrator of over 40 children's books visited the library on

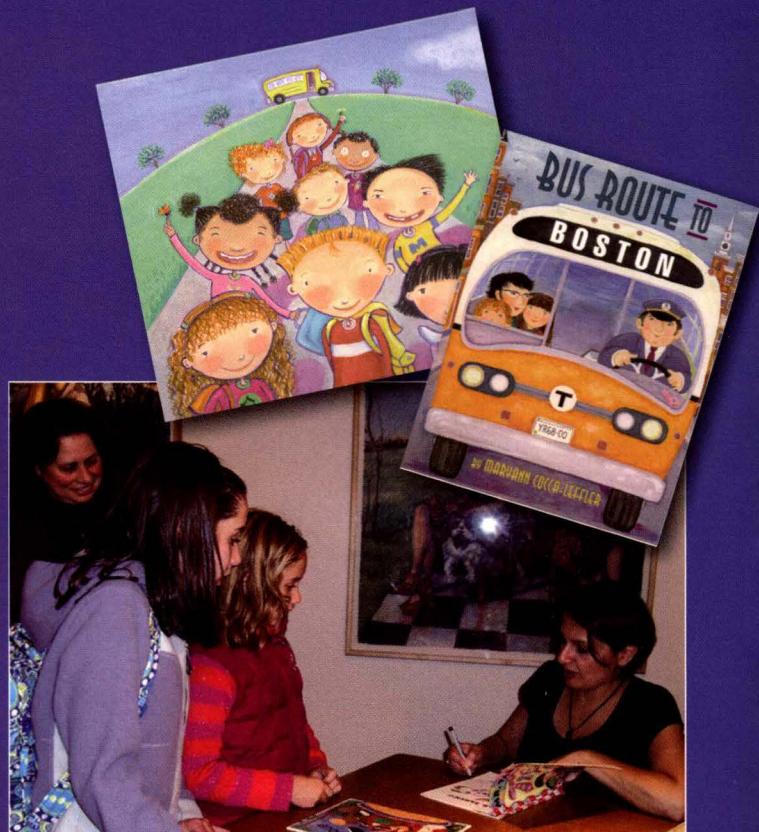


*Tanglewood Marionettes presented The Dragon King and mesmerized a crowd of 147. Families got a rare opportunity to go backstage and see the people who make the magic.*



*Children enjoyed the crazy antics and silly songs by the Toe Jam Puppet Band.*

October 2, thanks to the continuing financial support from the Endowment Fund.



*Maryann Cocca-Leffler visited the library recently and signed books for her Groton fans. For more on the author, visit [maryanncoccaleffler.com](http://maryanncoccaleffler.com).*



# Young Adults Find Success with Summer Reading

We all know that the pleasure of reading is its own reward, but with the Endowment's generous support in providing prizes for our young adult (ages 12–18) summer reading program, an amazing number of young people—351—were motivated to read and enjoy both the material and educational benefits from the program.

Research tells us that:

Reading for fun is the key to educational success, according to nationally recognized reading expert Stephen Krashen.

The number of books read over the summer is consistently related to academic gains.

Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.

Outstanding high school writers reported extensive summer reading.

Students participating in a summer reading program are more likely to read at or above their grade level than their non-participating peers. (Minkel and Walter)

That's what the experts say, but what do our young adults say about Summer Reading?

*Summer Reading was great because it made me read more and there are some awesome prizes!*

—Sarah R.

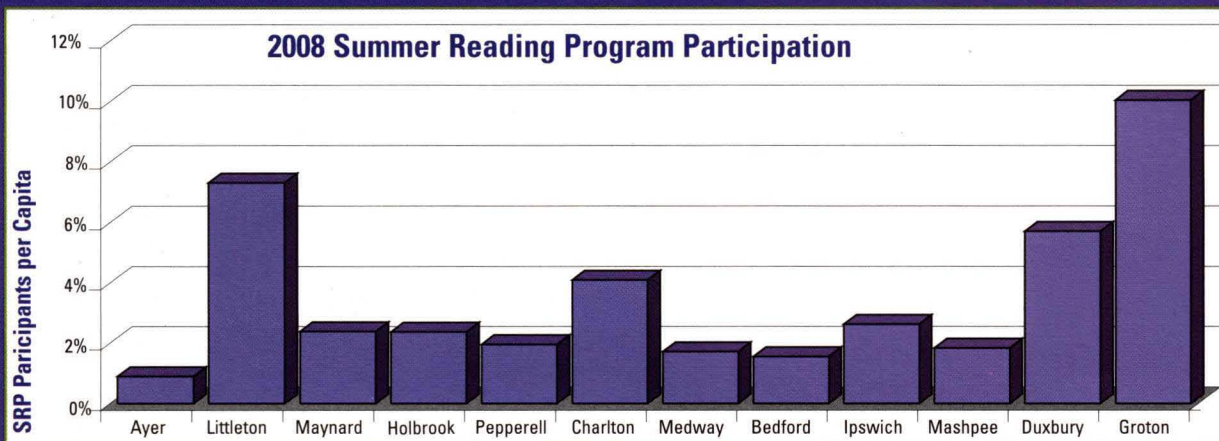
*It was great. Keep the good sponsors.*

—Jonathan E.

In fact, 81% of those surveyed agree that the prizes motivate them to read, and it is the Endowment that enables us to provide those great prizes. The motivation began with a free Frisbee for signing up for the program and reading in July increased 27% over July 2007!



**Above:** The colorful Frisbees were flying high in the park when treated to the tricks and tips of World Freestyle Frisbee Champion Todd Brodeur. **Left:** Jake von Slatt answered audience questions about the Steampunk laptop. A crew from the new PBS show Make:TV filmed his visit to the library.



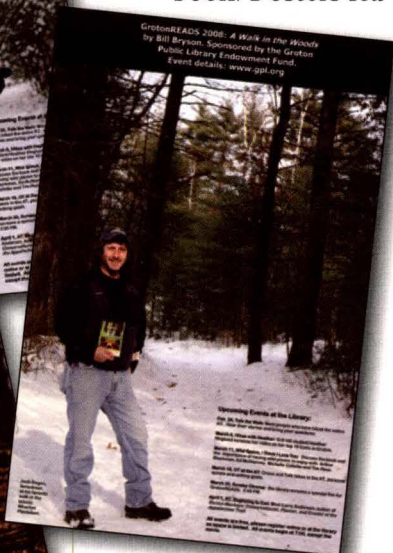
**GPL FACT:**  
235,502  
items were  
borrowed  
last year—  
an average  
of 23 items  
per Groton  
resident.



## GROTON READS 2008

GrotonREADS, the town-wide reading event, has been held for four years, two of those under

hikes, a hike of Surrenden Farm, an author visit by Larry Anderson, biographer of conservationist Benton MacKaye, a panel of local hikers who told their stories of hiking the Appalachian Trail, led by Len Bennet and, of course, group discussions of the book. Posters fea-



tured town leaders and local conservationists who also participated in discussion groups. The Sunday Cinema series attracted over 60 people to the screening of *2,000 Miles to Maine: Adventures on the Appalachian Trail*, a program tie-in with GrotonREADS.

*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver was selected for 2009 and Nancy Turkle has been selected to be the coordinator. If you are interested in serving on the committee or participating in anyway, please call the library at 978-448-8000.

the sponsorship of the Endowment. Two hundred paperback copies of our featured book, *A Walk in the Woods*, by Bill Bryson, were distributed during kick-off week. GrotonREADS Coordinator, Susan Hughes, led a committee in planning and hosting seven community events for all ages. Event highlights included a video by Heather Hoglund on area

## CURRENT PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE ENDOWMENT (July 1, 2008–June 30 2009)

**ADULT PROGRAMS** .....\$3,500  
*Well-known author visit and performers*

**ART GALLERY CURATOR AND EXPENSES** .....\$4,500  
*Supports five–six art shows*

**BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR SCHOOL VISITS** .....\$3,000  
*Transport elementary school students to the library*

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM & COLLECTIONS** .....\$11,000  
*Nine Tales and Tunes (Sept.–May), family programs, storytime enhancements and books on CD collection enhancement*

**COLLECTION ENHANCEMENT** .....\$5,000  
*Upgrade of non-fiction literature and DVD collections*

**COMPUTER LAB** .....\$4,650  
*Eight classes in specialized subjects, additional hardware and course software*

**GPL HOMEPAGE REDESIGN AND UPGRADE** .....\$9,325  
*Upgrade of current homepage with new features*

**GROTON READS 2009** .....\$5,000  
*Town-wide reading program including coordinator, books and special events*

**MEMOIR WRITING WORKSHOPS** .....\$1,400  
*Two six-week sessions in the fall and spring*

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT** .....\$1,000  
*Educational development to enhance the library's service to the community*

**TECHNOLOGY** .....\$11,932  
*Redesign of the technology area including two additional computers*

**YOUNG ADULT** .....\$8,000  
*Summer reading program incentives, author/performer visits, programs and collection enhancement*

**TOTAL\*** .....\$68,307  
*\*Includes unexpended funds of \$4,477 from FY 2008*

GrotonREADS presenter and Groton Dunstable student, Heather Hoglund, won a national award from the Alliance for Community Media. Her production, *Groton Trails — A Guide to Our Town's 10 Best* won the Best Profile Documentary, Youth Category.



## STORIES ONLY YOU CAN TELL

I had the great privilege of participating in the 6-week course, "Stories Only You Can Tell", sponsored by the Endowment Fund during the spring of 2008. Eight of us wrote a few pages of our memoirs prior to each two-hour session. During each session we learned about different themes—scene development, characters, drama, timing and the purpose of writing.

Why is this course so popular? To me the answer lies in the whole package. The course gives everyone a structure, deadlines, and an audience for those motivated to write about their lives. The critical ingredient, however, is Zoa Guernsey, a former English teacher who brings enormous background and skill to the course.

More importantly, she brings an amazingly positive outlook and deep appreciation of and interest in others that makes the experience so meaningful and productive for everyone. The atmosphere is safe, supportive and fun. Everyone receives positive feedback and encouragement when they share their writing, and that keeps us learning and wanting to continue writing our stories.

—Sue Lotz, course participant



Zoa Guernsey

## INTERVIEW WITH ENDOWMENT CHAIRMAN, AL STONE

*Do you use the Groton Public Library? What are you reading now?*

As a regular patron of the library, every visit draws me to the periodical section to keep abreast of current events and current thinking. From there I visit the new non-fiction section for more in-depth reading on current thinking. Then I top this off with a focus on new historical and biographical writing that recently has ranged from David McCullough's *Path Between the Seas* about the building of the Panama Canal, and a new book by Joseph Wheelan called *Mr. Adams' Last Crusade: John Quincy Adams' Extraordinary Post-presidential Life in Congress*.

*What is an endowment fund?*

Endowment funds are capital funds that are invested to produce a stream of income to support a program for the benefit of an institution or organization, usually intended to continue forever. Thus, the Groton Public Library Endowment Trust was established as the result of a fundraising campaign in Groton about 10 years ago. The trust fund, now totaling \$1.8 million, is invested to provide a stream of income to supplement and enhance programs of the library in excess of those funds provided by taxpayers. Our Endowment Fund typically produces \$60–\$70,000 per year to support the many programs endowed by our Trust.

*Why did you get involved with the creation of an endowment fund for the Groton Public Library?*

The decision to create the Endowment Fund was born concurrent with the construction and renovation of the current expanded library in 1998. A group of interested citizens conducted the campaign and established the Trust to administer the Endowment Fund completely separate from town administration. The campaign at that time raised about \$1.1 million which has grown, through prudent investment and additional gifts.

*Why do you support the library's endowment fund?*

The Trustees of the Groton Public Library Trust, most of whom have served since its inception, are a group of dedicated citizens of the town who believe deeply in the need for the Endowment Fund, who enthusiastically share commitment to the importance of the enhanced programs supported by the endowment, and who work hard to grow the fund through prudent investment and encouragement of additional gifts to insure a better library in the future.

*Anything else you would like to add?*

It is our hope that citizens will continue to support the endowment as they have in the past and that new trustees will emerge from time to time to insure the continued thoughtful administration of this fruitful asset for the benefit of all Groton's citizens.



## ART GALLERY NEWS

The GPL Endowment's funding allows us to create and operate the Owen Smith Shuman Gallery, a little known gem in the MetroWest art scene, which displays high quality works by professional and amateur artists.

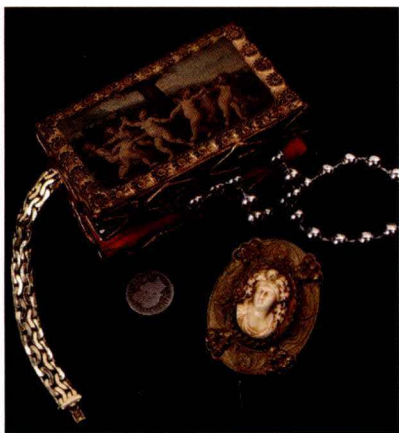
Highlights in 2008 included the evocative night photography of Groton artist Kate Trump O'Connor, a spring exhibit titled "Botanical Inspirations" in which artists such as Merrill Comeau paid homage to the glory of mature trees and the wondrous juxtapositions possible with fabric collage, and an exhibit of selenium toned black and white photographs by professional photographer and frequent library volunteer, Suzanne Révy.

The current show, "The Figure, Clothed," is a varied exhibit of portraits and figures of work by Sharon Chew, Randy Nehila, Jill Pottle and Sharon Wooding which is on display through November 30th.

December and January 2009 will bring a highly professional exhibit of landscapes by two Lunenburg artists, Jill Pottle and Pam Lawson.



*Sharon Wooding's watercolor entitled Central Park Napping will be on exhibit through November 30, 2008.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

The Groton Public Library Endowment will host a fundraiser in March featuring Boston-based fine art and antiques appraiser Paul Royka. Mr. Royka, who provides appraisal, auction and consulting services for fine art and antiques and has appeared numerous times on the popular PBS series *Antiques Roadshow*, will visit the library on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 6:00–9:00 p.m., to talk about antiques. He will return on Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., to give appraisals of your fine art and antique treasures. The talk is free and the appraisal day will benefit the GPL Endowment Fund. For more information visit [gpl.org](http://gpl.org) or call 978-448-8000.

## GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

P.O. Box 401  
Groton, MA 01450

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Groton, MA

## GROTON POSTAL PATRON