

GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure

2017

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS SPECTACULAR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

GPL #1 in Teen Programs for the Fifth Year in a Row!

For the FIFTH year in a row, Groton Public Library has ranked FIRST in total attendance at all teen programs in the state!* This remarkable achievement is due to many factors, but key among them: our superb Teen Librarian, Deborah Dowson; the amazing young adults in Groton who get involved at their library; excellent support in Town for the library and teen services; and the generous funding from the GPL Endowment Trust for teen events, refreshments, supplies, and both YA Summer and Winter Reading Programs. Thank you all for helping to create such a phenomenally successful program!

*Compared to 50 other MA public libraries serving the same population grouping (10K-15K), FY16 data

Groton Library Provides Very High Service Levels to the Community

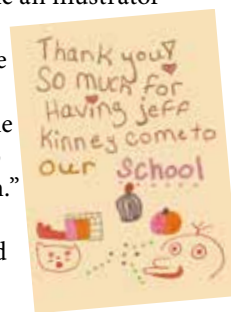
The recent town operational assessment found that, "The Library has extensive, extensively supported and attended programs not just for children but for adults, seniors and other special populations." Our 'extensive, extensively supported'

programs are directly the result of the generosity of the GPL Endowment Trust. The support from the Endowment has allowed the Groton Public Library to thrive, provide a large number of programs and services every year, and to continue to stand out as one of the best small libraries in the state. We are FIRST in the state for the number of residents with library cards, 4th in total number of programs, 4th in meeting room use, 4th in circulation per capita, and 5th in circulation.*



Jeff Kinney Visits Groton!

"JEFF KINNEY CAME TO GROTON TODAY! The 3rd and 4th graders, along with the 5th graders and the 3rd and 4th graders from Swallow Union, got a special treat today. Jeff Kinney, the author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid, came to speak at the PAC! The students were very excited and listened to Jeff talk about how he persevered to become an illustrator and an author. A very special thank you to the Groton Public Library and Karen Dunham, the librarian, for helping to make this event happen." – Liz Garden, Florence Roche Principal (posted online 9/25/2017)



The GPL Endowment Trust supported this event by providing bus transportation for Swallow Union students to attend, media support, and the brand-new Wimpy Kid books Jeff Kinney signed for the handful of lucky students who received a coveted autographed copy. And it was GPL's terrific Children's Librarian, Karen Dunham, who booked Jeff Kinney to come!

Jeff Kinney speaks to students

THANK YOU

Dear Groton Neighbor,

Greetings!

We offer this report to you at the end of the GPL Endowment Trust's 20th year to share the many ways the Trust benefits the library, to provide an update on the financial health of the Trust, and to ask for your continued support.

Library Benefits. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, but more importantly, we hope you have enjoyed one or more of the many delightful programs, additional services, or new furnishings the Groton Public Library has been able to offer because of the Endowment.

Financial Health. The financial statement of the Trust as of June 30, 2017, shows assets totaling \$2,554,006. The Trust invests the principal and grants up to 4% each year for programs and services for the library. In FY2017, \$68,961 was expended for grants, and \$83,050 has already been approved for FY2018.

Continued Support. 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.

How to Donate. To use PayPal, go to gplendowment.org and under "Ways to Give," click on DONATE. Or send a check to the Endowment by mail to:

GPL Endowment Trust
Post Office Box 401
Groton, MA 01450-0401

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, Chair

Edward Strachan, Treasurer

David Riggert

Kristen von Campe, Library Trustee

Vanessa Abraham, Library Director

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals and corporations who made gifts to the GPL Endowment Trust from October 2016 through September 2017.

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New Groton History Center display

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 library and its abundant offerings of programs, services, and collections.

www.gplendowment.org

Complete financial reports are available at the library.

Photo (below): The Henna Tattoos event appealed to a range of age groups

Adult Summer Reading Numbers Have Gone Through the Roof!

By **Lisa Baylis**, Head of Circulation Services

This summer, 186 participants read 945 books! Adult participation was up 85% over the past two summers and people read 17% more books! The Circulation Desk was busy all summer long!

Why was this year's Adult Summer Reading Program so successful? It may be a mix of factors:

1. The theme of "Build a Better World" seemed to resonate with our readers. For the first time, patrons of all ages earned donation money for a wonderful Massachusetts charity.
2. Reading prizes were all from the non-profit Ten Thousand Villages, which creates income opportunities for artisans in developing countries by bringing their products and stories to our markets.
3. More programs that appealed to different age groups: Our Henna Tattoos brought in many patrons in their twenties and thirties. The new Adult & YA combined Kickoff Party and Breakout Room Challenges were also huge successes. Many people commented how nice it was to attend with their teens.



Participation more than doubled for this year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Read the World." Could you read books with some connection to each of 8 contiguous countries? Our black & white world wall map soon blossomed with colors as people filled in their literary travel locations.

This was our fourth year offering a Summer Reading Program for Adults, and it continues to grow and garner a bigger response each year! Because, after all, why should kids have all the fun? Adults like reading challenges and to win prizes for reading, too!

Make sure to join us next year! Sign up starts on the last day of school!

You Read Your Way Up to \$1,204 for Homes for Our Troops!

This year's summer reading theme was "Build a Better World" and we wanted to do our part. One of the prizes earned for reading this year was a \$1 donation to Homes For Our Troops! This top-rated Massachusetts-based charity builds and donates specially-adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives. (For more info: hfotusa.org.)

This summer, over 1,000 people of all ages participated in GPL's Summer Reading Programs for kids, teens, and adults! For meeting certain reading goals, \$1 was "earned" for HFOT, and at the end of the summer, a check from the Endowment for \$1,204 was sent to HFOT! Great job, Groton readers!

MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

The GPL Endowment Trust generously provides free or discounted passes to 24 area attractions, where you can enjoy the magic of butterflies in flight at the Butterfly Place, be amazed by seeing lightning being created at the Museum of Science, or delight in the adorable penguins and fascinating sea life at the New England Aquarium.

Museum passes were used 1,131 times last year, which represents a total average savings of \$28,000 for pass users! The five most popular passes were (in order): New England Aquarium, Museum of Science, Discovery Museums, Museum of Fine Arts, and the Butterfly Place.

A complete list of passes is available online at gpl.org. Passes may be reserved up to 90 days in advance with your library card number and PIN.

Did you know that GPL staff answered 5,906 reference questions last year?



Children Built a Better World by Reading @ GPL this Summer!

by Karen Dunham, Head of Children's Services



Bus Transportation for School Visits

Seventeen elementary school classes from Florence Roche and Swallow Union (a total of 370 children) visited the library thanks to funding for bus transportation by the Endowment. First grade classes visited in October and other grades are planned for later in the school year.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

This year's Summer Reading theme inspired and empowered children to build a better world. Not only did children from pre-readers through Grade 5 earn prizes for meeting their reading goals, they also learned that their reading could bring a positive change for others. How was this accomplished? For every child who met their reading goal for at least 3 weeks (thanks to the Endowment!) \$1.00 was donated to Homes for Our Troops.

582 children joined the Summer Reading Program and the Endowment funded several presenters whose workshops gave children the opportunity to plan and build a city with LEGOs®, design and create the strongest 'earthquake ready' tower, use coding to create a Minecraft world, and even make their own slime! In addition to these hands-on programs, the Endowment funded many exciting events such as Positive Spin with Brett Outchunis. The super entertaining and upbeat Brett (affectionately known as 'Ooch') used music, magic, imagination, yo-yos, and dance to empower children to turn negative situations into positive ones.

Children also got to experience the performing arts with music events starring the Toe Jam Puppet Band, Karen K. & the Jitterbugs, Steve Blunt & Friends, and musician Matt Heaton as well as a live theatre production of *Beauty and the Beast* by the Hampstead Stage Co. A visit from Animal World Experience and the fascinating live Caterpillar Lab were

also favorite programs. The highlight of the summer was the Tanglewood Marionettes' enchanting production of *The Dragon King*.



YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

This year we offered 256 children's programs with 4,390 kids attending!

Snow Better Time to Read! Winter Reading Program. 60 kids in grades K-4 signed up for Winter Reading in February, and 28 met the goal of reading 15 minutes for 15 days! For this, they earned a prize and a raffle ticket for either a movie pass or gift card to Barnes & Noble.

Other special programs included:

Rolie Polie Guacamole concert

Teddy Bear Picnic concert with musician Philip Alexander

Weekly Drop-in Preschool Craft

8 *Tales & Tunes* music programs for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with over 500 attending!

NEW COLLECTION: PLAYAWAYS!

Thanks to the Endowment, we now have a collection of twenty-five audiobook Playaways®! Unlike physical discs or downloads, this all-in-one digital player comes pre-loaded with an audiobook and is ready to use! Just plug in your headphones and press 'play'! Parents and kids love them!

*"These are amazing.
This is the coolest thing ever!"*
—quote from a parent

*"This is a wonderful way
to help my son with dyslexia read."*
--another parent

NEW! 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN!

Inspired by the 1000 Books Foundation, we are excited to announce the start of the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten initiative at the library! Children ages 0-5 (pre-K) and their parents or caregivers who sign up will receive a FREE 1,000 books activity journal and book bag, courtesy of the GPL Endowment. Research shows that the most reliable predictor of school success is being read to at home during early childhood. For more information about this program, stop by the Children's Room or read more at 1000booksbeforekindergarten.org.



Young Adults on the Move

by Deborah Dowson, Young Adult Librarian

GPL welcomes teens in every area of the library. They can be found using the computers in the reference area after school, booking a study room to work on a group project, coming to programs in the meeting rooms, working to shelve books in the children's room, volunteering in the teen area, checking out materials on the mid-level, and researching on the 3rd floor. Even so, we are thrilled to be creating a dedicated teen room that will be a space for the teens to call their very own.

The young adult collection will move upstairs, adjacent to the teen room which will have booth seating, a computer counter, lounge chairs, and a conference



table. The Endowment has supported our teen area in the past with furnishings and equipment and has provided funds for the new booth and other furnishings for our new

space. We can't wait to move in!

Looking forward is exciting, but looking back over this past year is also gratifying. We have a strong offering of programs supported by Endowment funds, most notably our summer and winter reading programs, the llama lounge that attracts scores of middle school students on half-days, and the half a dozen clubs that meet on a regular basis. The Endowment is the foundation of our exceptional teen programs and spaces.

FY17 Programs = 133

FY17 Program Attendance = 1,859

2017 Summer Reading Participants = 287

2017 Summer Reading Books Recorded = 1,769

FY17 Clubs = 6

FY17 Volunteers = 12



Photo (above):
Reading time

Photo (right):
Playing with Slime

Groton READS The Big Burn!

by Vanessa Abraham, Library Director



The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the fire that saved America by Timothy Egan (2009) was this year's choice for our annual community-wide reading event. In this



bestselling work of non-fiction, National Book Award-winner Egan writes the compelling true story of the single largest fire ever recorded in the United States – an apocalyptic blaze that burned an area the size of Connecticut in 36 hours in Idaho, Montana, and

Washington. No living person had ever seen a fire with the ferocity, speed, and destructive power of the Big Burn of 1910. Equally dramatic and engaging is the larger story of Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, and the creation myth of the U.S. Forest Service.

The Big Burn sparked many great programs, including:

An Afternoon with TEDDY ROOSEVELT, with actor/author/educator Ted Zalewski

Discussion with Groton Fire Chief STEELE MCCURDY, following the viewing of 2014 PBS documentary based on Egan's book

ANSEL ADAMS: Environmentalist & Photographer with Art Professor Lance Hidy

WILLIAM WHARTON: Groton's Early Conservationist with Frank Lowenstein of the New England Forestry Foundation. Co-sponsored with the Groton History Center.

GROTON FIRES with Groton's Leroy Johnson and Fire Chief McCurdy.

SMOKEY BEAR: Groton Firefighters and Smokey Bear came to GPL!

FIRE MAKING with Bow Drills, with Primitive Skills Instructor Tim Swanson

Thanks to the Groton Fire Department, especially Chief Steele McCurdy, for your wonderful participation in and support of this year's Groton Reads!



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.

FY2017 Programs

Adult Programs	16%
Art Gallery	7%
Children's Services	23%
Furnishings & Equipment	16%
Groton READS	3%
Lifelong Learning	4%
Museum Passes	15%
Technology	2%
Young Adult Services	14%

Photo (right):
Author Kate Clifford Larson

Photo (below):
Introduction to Genealogy



This Year We've Enjoyed a Cornucopia of Diverse Adult Programs!

by **Lauren Sanchez**, Adult Programs Coordinator

We have:

- Inspired our cooking with Chef Liz Barbour's Cookbook Club
- Attempted the waltz with professional dancer Brett Outchunis
- Created pastel masterpieces with artist Gregory Maichack
- Boogied with historian and music lover Kevin Comtois
- Woven coiled baskets from local materials with Pam Gaskins
- Learned the fine art of tea blending with Danielle Beaudette
- Gathered tips and tricks on homebrew (Fitchburg Order of Ale Makers), sugar mapling (Bruce and Sully), beekeeping (Kenneth Warchol), and knitting (Janet Shea from Country Village Yarn)
- Laughed with Totie Fields portrayed by Delvena Theatre
- And found our festive spirit with the trombones of the Solstice Sackbuts

In addition, our audiences have experienced New England in new ways. Chronicle's Ted Reinstein presented his book *Wicked Pissed: New England's Most Famous Feuds* to a rapt audience. Author and stonemason Kevin Gardner took us on a journey along historic New England stone walls. Author Kate Clifford Larson intrigued us with the sad but beautiful legacy of Rosemary Kennedy with her book presentation *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter*.

All thanks to our wonderful Endowment!

Lifelong Learning Courses

Read. Think. Engage. Learn.



Library Lifelong Learning Courses are facilitated by residents who freely share their time, energy, and expertise with participants. All courses and materials are free to participants, thanks to the support of the GPL Endowment Trust.

Fall 2015 Courses:

Homer's Odyssey, led by David Ross
Introduction to Genealogy, led by Alex Woodle
Nutrition 101, led by Charles Smigelski
Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
Muslim History, Culture, & Contributions, led by Shua Arshad

Spring 2016 Courses:

Groton Police Academy, led by Groton's Police Department
1930's Hollywood Films, Focusing on Screwball Comedies, led by Dr. Joseph Moser
Great Decisions 2017, led by Jim Simko
Writing Creatively, led by Richard Meibers
Are We Born Racist? Book Discussion Series, led by June Johnson

The GPL Endowment Trust also supports:

Spanish Conversation Group, led by native Spanish speaker and North Middlesex High School Spanish Teacher, Veronica Mazzu
"Stories Only You Can Tell" Memoir-Writing Workshop, led by Zoann Guernsey – a perennial favorite for 15 years!

Did you know that the first half-day of school this year (Sept. 29) was our FOURTH busiest day on record? 1,683 people were in the library that day!

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

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Groton, MA 01450

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Art Gallery News

by Ken Hansen, Art Gallery Coordinator



Darcy Schults, Nina Earley, SaraNoa Mark



Wendy Frank talks about husband Ray Ciemny's creative process.

Opposite: Seven Hills Director and Free Expressions staff.

Newburyport Art Association members– joined in their mutual enthusiasm for painting out of doors– opened our fall season. Cynthia Cooper, Dale Partis Greene, Susan Jaworski-Stranc, Margery M. Jennings, Marjet Lesk, Susan Luca, Janet MacLeod, Susan Spellman, and Janet Sutherland shared a selection of North Shore landscape inspirations in *Newburyport Air*.

Taking the theme of landscape into a more abstract realm, *Places Recalled* featured three young artists from very diverse geographic backgrounds: Nina Earley was born in Switzerland and currently makes Boston her home; SaraNoa Mark comes from Chicago by way of Philadelphia; and Darcy Schultz returned east, settling in Groton, after several years in Portland, Oregon.

Our “winter warmer” *Quilts* exhibit showcased the collective talents of Cathy Bellino (Chelmsford), Cathy Granese (Stoneham), Ginger Parker (Littleton), Dorry Swain (Shirley), and Allison Wilbur (Bristol, RI).

Cambridge artist Linda Branch Dunn shared her poignant mixed-media meditations on memory, change, and loss in *Paper Dolls*.

As Ray Ciemny tells it, I made him give up several Sundays to prepare a body of original work for *Recast*. I believe he feels it was well worth it. The resulting exhibit signaled an exciting new direction for our Ray.

The Seven Hills Pediatric Center of Groton has a wonderful art program serving their resident special needs patients. *Free Expressions* allows young people with various physical challenges to express themselves creatively, with the help of specialized staff members.

We were fortunate to be the first public venue to display a collection of these impressive artworks.

