

GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

ensuring our enduring treasure

REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY | NOVEMBER 2012

SHARING A LOVE OF LEARNING

In the fall of 2011, the Library Trustees held a retreat on the future of libraries

that was in tandem with a community survey on the future direction of GPL. Goals for 2012–2013 included creating a café, adding econtent, and offering lifelong learning, all of which are in place. The Endowment was instrumental in supporting e-content (see pg. 2) as well as the new offering of lifelong learning.

Additionally, volunteer Mary Jennings and staff members Owen Shuman and Ann Wilson ran a focus group on learning at the library. The results of that evening are the seeds of this new program which gives local residents a unique opportunity to engage in a shared learning experience at their local library.

To promote this new venture, the GPL

Endowment Trust partially funded the town-wide mailing of a postcard and a stipend for facilitators. The first series, TED Talks, began Sept. 18 with a group of 23 participants. The six-week afternoon seminar featured brief, inspiring online lectures on a wide range of topics in the realms of technology, entertainment, and design and was led by Mary Athey Jennings.



The second offering, Justice, began in October and was led by Gregg Baker. Participants watched six of Harvard Professor Michael Sandel's lectures from his



series were free, thanks in part to the GPL Endowment Trust.

Plans are underway for 2013 with potential offerings in the areas of history, physics, and/or astronomy. Lifelong learning at your library is a shared learning experience—let us know what you want to learn or maybe teach.

course "Justice:

What's the Right Thing to Do?" at home and then came to the library to discuss intriguing moral situations that were raised by each online lecture. Both

BORROW EBOOKS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Are you enjoying reading on your iPad or smartphone and would like to now borrow and not buy each book? GPL has recently started offering ebooks via Axis 360. This nascent service will be getting a boost to its collection with a generous grant of \$5,500 from the Endowment.

Axis 360 works with Blio, eBook reading software that you download to your computer, tablet, or smartphone. You borrow the book and after two weeks, it disappears from your device. Axis 360 titles currently run on any Windows PC and on iOS and Android mobile devices. Books may be read on smartphones, iPads, Nooks and the Kindle Fire but are not yet compatible with the basic Kindle.

more than > museums

Although it is known as the “Museum Pass Program,” this popular library service offers a lot more in learning, entertainment and fun activities. In addition to providing reduced or free admission to most of the area’s well-known museums, The GPL Endowment also offers savings to take in a Lowell Spinners game, experience Boston on a walking tour, explore the barnyard and complex cornfield at Davis Farmland, or see wildlife from all over the world at Zoo New England or Roger Williams Park Zoo.

1,322 passes were borrowed last year—a total savings of \$29,605 to users!

Thanks to the generous support of The GPL Endowment Trust, these 22 passes are available for your or your family’s next outing:

Boston By Foot

Boston Children’s Museum

Butterfly Place, Westford

Davis’ Farmland, Sterling

DeCordova Museum, Lincoln

Discovery Museums, Acton

Ecotarium, Worcester

Fitchburg Art Museum

Fruitlands, Harvard

Harvard Museum of Natural History

Higgins Armory Museum, Worcester

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston

Lowell Spinners

Museum of Fine Arts

Museum of Science

New England Aquarium

Peabody Essex Museum, Salem

Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth

Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI

Worcester Art Museum

Zoo New England, Boston and Stoneham

Additionally, the Groton Garden Club donates passes to Tower Hill Botanic Garden and New England Wildflower. **They are easy to reserve—just go to gpl.org, click *Museum Passes* or call: 978-448-1167.**



Ryan Donaruma with Spinners’ catcher, Luis Exposito



thanks

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Dear Groton Neighbor,

This newsletter is mailed to everyone in the community to tell you about the many ways in which the Trust benefits the library from children's programs to econtent, from Groton READS to teen events and much more, and to ask for your invaluable support.

The GPL Endowment Trust was established by people like you—generous citizens and businesses in Groton—to provide a stream of income which helps to make the Groton Public Library the best it can be.

At our June meeting the Endowment Trustees approved \$52,933 for special projects and enhancements for the Library in Fiscal Year 2013.

Please take a minute to read this newsletter and see if you have enjoyed some of the many services and programs provided by the GPL Endowment.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in the past and to those who have not, please consider supporting this vital fund. It's easy and convenient to donate. Visit our website at www.gplendowment.org and click on the Paypal button or use the enclosed envelope and drop off at the library or mail.

Thanks for your support!

Robert Weber, Chairman
Connie Lapres
Edward Strachan, Treasurer
Owen S. Shuman, Library Director
Kristen von Campe

Complete financial reports are available at the Library.

REMEMBERING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Memorial gifts to the GPL Endowment, such as those made this year in honor of Nick Hersey, David Hopper and former library staff Helen Maynard and Winnie Marsh, 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.



Trust enhances library's programs for children

SUMMER READERS HELP FELIX'S FRIENDS

In addition to earning prizes, 509 children in the summer reading program helped donate to the Lowell Humane Society—the shelter where the Children's Room found Felix, the guinea pig. The GPL Endowment not only paid for the prizes, but they also supported a donation of \$250 based on the 7,638 hours read by the children.

"Please keep the Tanglewood Marionettes coming. They put on such a great show!" Their show, *Sleeping Beauty*, thrilled an audience of almost 200! In addition to this program the Endowment also funded ten other events for the "Dream Big: READ!" summer reading program including music and puppet shows, wild animal encounters, a fairy tale theatre, Star Wars symposium, and science programs about rockets and bats.



Reading to Roly The Endowment funded the purchase of a floor pillow for the Read to a Dog program. Roly and Huggs, friendly and adorable West Highland Terriers, are certified reading assistance dogs through the Pets and People Foundation. Reading aloud to a dog increases a child's self-confidence and reading skills and has become a popular GPL pastime.



Baseball events were a hit! Children met David A. Kelly, author of the popular Ballpark Mysteries series. Another special treat was the visit and photo op with Wally the Green Monster, the official mascot of the Boston Red Sox.



The Groton Public Library is the perfect place for newly independent young adults to express their creativity, curiosity, and individuality, and the Endowment provides the programs that keep our young people connected to all that the library has to offer. The summer reading program is the best in the area and our readers say it is the great prizes that keep them engaged in the program and motivated to read more, year after year. During the summer the Endowment-sponsored programs saw a 35% increase in attendance as young adults took advantage of the free movies, arts and crafts classes, workshops and lectures.

During the school year's half-days, Sibley Hall is transformed into a drop-in center for 50 or more middle school students who enjoy an afternoon of fun, games, crafts and socializing. Thanks to the Endowment, young adults have many entertaining and creative ways to stay-connected with the library as they mature.



Glow-in-the-Dark Art participants create space themed t-shirts for the *Under the Stars* Summer Reading Program.

PROGRAMS THAT CONNECT

Right: Suzanne Binnie inspires a class of beginning zentangalists.

Far right: Colorful duct tape strips are woven together to make a purse in the Stick It! duct tape workshop.

Bottom: Participants of the Starry Night Pastel Painting workshop display their impression of Van Gogh's masterpiece.



STORIES ONLY YOU CAN TELL

It's no wonder Groton's Zoa Guernsey chose this title for her memoir writing workshops. During these six-week courses taught twice a year since 2003, Zoa knows that every participant has a unique story to share. Each participant's story brims with promise under the guidance of this well-loved and respected educator who inspires and challenges her students to make their stories come to life. Whether you can write like a pro or you struggle with each sentence, your experience, your story matters to her. She cheers you on whether you write for yourself, your family, or friends. People from all walks of life hone their



Photograph by Bob Lotz

writing skills with Zoa—professors, short-order cooks, business owners, native English speakers or not. Some people tell their stories, knowing their health has become fragile and it is a last gift to their families. Zoa welcomes them all with determination and joy. She helps them bring forth their

stories, with her unique blend of candor, tenderness, and just plain fun, as she passes on her love of writing. This fall, Zoa is joined by her daughter Zoann, an accomplished teacher and experienced memoir writing workshop leader as well.

TARBELL ART COMMITTEE

The Tarbell Art Committee, a recently formed group of citizens, has been working with the Tarbell Trust to bring a collection of Edmund C. Tarbell paintings and drawings to hang in various locations in Groton, including Town Hall and the Library. To inaugurate the partnership, a Tarbell show in the Owen Smith Shuman Gallery is being planned for in the fall of 2013.

Edmund C. Tarbell's *Marjorie, Edmund II and Daniel*.

Photograph by Bob Lotz



GrotonREADS and WRITES 2013

The 2012 selection, *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis was a hit with over 100 people attending opening day of GrotonREADS. Events included a sports expo, women in sports event, discussions and a screening of the movie. This annual event encourages people to read books that they may not normally choose, attend book-related programs and engage with their neighbors around the book or theme.

The 2013 community-wide read will have a new focus in its 9th year. The theme has been extended to encompass writing and

will be called: GrotonREADS and WRITES 2013. The book (or books) will feature writing with programs to inspire and encourage writers—from nascent to seasoned.

Two well-known authors will speak next spring: Laura Moriarty and Mary Johnson.

Ms. Moriarty is the author of four novels. Her most recent book, *The Chaperone*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and *USA Today* #1 Hot Fiction Pick for the summer. This captivating novel is about the woman who chaperoned an irreverent Louise Brooks to New York City in 1922

and the summer that would change them both. It is historical fiction at its best.

Mary Johnson's memoir, *An Unquenchable Thirst*, is an intimate view of a closed society, the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa. Ms. Johnson knew Mother Teresa and served as a nun for two decades. Kirkus Reviews said, "Her powerful memoir tells of those 20 years living a life both extraordinarily simple and heart-wrenchingly

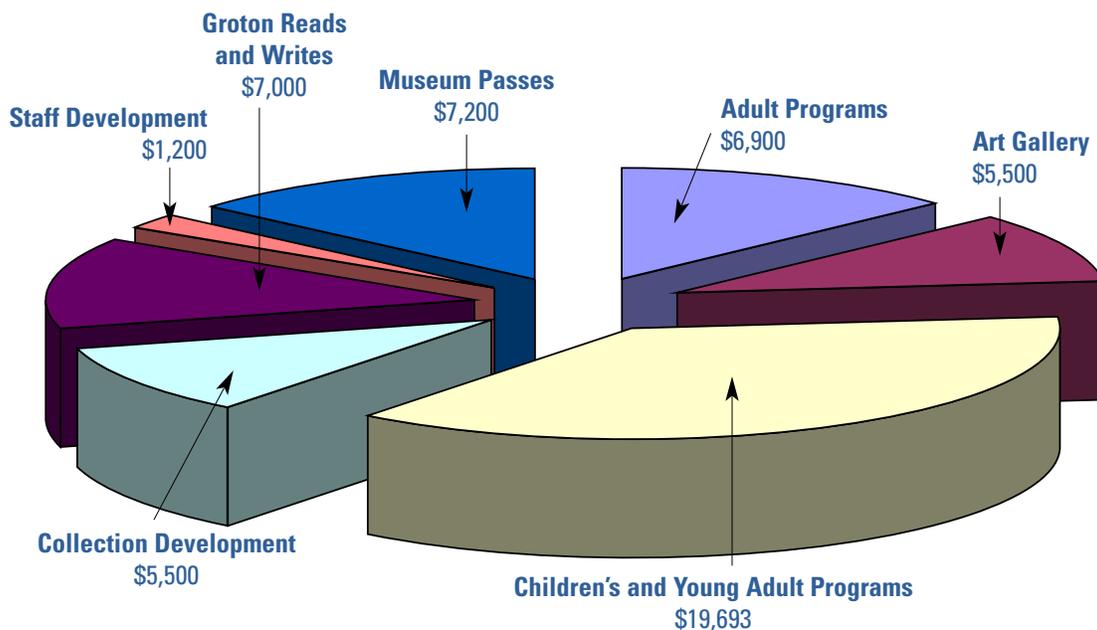


complex." Mary lives in New Hampshire and has taught memoir writing workshops in the area.

For more information on either author, visit www.lauramoriarty.net and www.maryjohnson.co and watch for news of 2013 events at gpl.org and at the library.

CURRENT PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE ENDOWMENT

(July 1, 2012–June 30 2013)



THANK YOU, OWEN

The Trustees of the GPL Endowment extend their best wishes to Library Director Owen Smith Shuman upon her retirement next month. Ms. Shuman was instrumental in the establishment of the Endowment Trust 14 years ago and has served as a Trustee since then. We also wish to congratulate her on her twenty-five years of leadership and outstanding service to the library and the residents of Groton.

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

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Cover image of library by Bob Lotz.

Art GalleryNEWS



YELLOW SUN SHINES IN LIBRARY

Highlights from 2012 include a fiber show, sculpture and photography, and an exhibit of artists' books and book inspired art, featuring Jeanne Borofsky, Joyce Fearnside, Jan Powell, and Deborah Read. Ms. Read's large color field painting titled "Yellow Sun" was recently purchased by the library trustees to bring color and warmth to the computer area on the upper level.

Deborah Read describes her work:

"The inspiration for "Yellow Sun" came from my life in Morocco where the colors are intense and the light is the most beautiful yellow. It envelopes you in its warmth and golden haze which is one of the reasons that I made the piece very large—to have the viewer feel this enveloping quality—to be surrounded by golden light."

Owen Smith Shuman, who is retiring as Library Director, was more than just the founder of the gallery named in her honor—she has been its guiding light for over a decade since its inception. More than that, Owen's dedication to the arts has had an impact on the artists that the gallery has provided a venue for, as well as the innumerable students and lovers of art who have walked through its doors. These contributions are immeasurable. She will be missed.