

## GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Owen Smith-Shuman, Director

Hours: Tue-Thu 10am-9pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-3pm; Sun 1pm-5pm (Jan-Apr); Mon closed

Trustee Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm

Main: 978-448-1167 \* Children's: 978-448-1168 \* Reference: 978-448-8000

Fax 978-448-1169 \* info@gpl.org

The Groton Public Library's mission is to provide free access to collections, services and programs that enrich the lives of all in our community and to provide this in a professional, friendly and confidential environment that also promotes the joys and benefits of reading and learning. Here are some highlights of what was achieved in 2012:

### New Programs & Experiences

- **Lifelong Learning Courses.** The top request from our 2010 community survey, we held our first lifelong learning courses in the fall, covering the topics of Justice, TED Talks, and Memoir Writing.
- **Online Courses.** We provided Transparent Language Online & Universal Class for self-directed learning.
- **Reading Assistance with Certified Therapy Dogs.** We partnered with Book Buddy, a program for children to improve their reading skills by reading aloud to a calming, non-judgmental dog.
- **Guinea Pig.** We adopted a guinea pig from the Lowell Humane Society and by popular vote named him Felix. He is a big crowd-pleaser and library patrons of all ages visit him often in the Children's Room.

### New Services

- **Extra Hours.** We added 4 more hours on Wednesdays (closing at 9 pm instead of 5 pm).
- **Coffee.** By popular request, we set up a self-service coffee station on the second floor.
- **Fax service.** We started a public fax service at the Reference Desk, which gets used almost every day.
- **Non-Fiction Reorganization.** We rearranged non-fiction into twelve broad subject categories to make our collection easier to browse (e.g. Home, Work & School, Body & Soul)
- **More Electronic Download Options.** We expanded our eLibrary offerings with Axis 360 (ebooks), Freeding (ebooks) and Freegal (emusic).

### Noteworthy Events

- **Popular Programs:** Author Gish Jen, Egypt in the News, Dog Behavior 101, GrotonREADS events (book: *Moneyball* by Michael Lewis), The President's Women, Cooking with Chocolate, Shop for Free with Coupons, Artist's Receptions, Movie Nights and Llama Lounges for Teens, and all Children's Events.
- **Library Space Planners** were brought in to help library staff best determine how to expand our teen area and improve space usage. Our space reconfiguration project will begin in 2013.
- **Director Owen Smith-Shuman retired** after 25 years of service. Vanessa Abraham was hired as the 10<sup>th</sup> Director in 159 years.

### By the Numbers

- Lent **225,363** items (21 items per capita)
- Received **579,904** hits on gpl.org
- Engaged **8,670** people at **455** programs and special events
- Provided **13,340** free and legal downloadable songs
- Registered **256** teens for summer reading, and they read **2,053** books
- Taught **26 classes**, or **570** students, from Florence Roche and Swallow Union Schools about library resources and services, and supplied every child with a library card.
- Signed up **601** children for summer reading, and they logged **7,638** hours of reading
- Delighted **5,478** children at **240** programs
- Collected **\$18,948** in fines, fees, and services
- Greeted **95,291** visitors to the Library

Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the Groton Public Library,

Nancy Wilder, Chair  
Susan Hughes, Vice-Chair

John J Kelly, Secretary  
Jane Allen

Mark Gerath  
Kristen von Campe

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A young girl reads to Huggs in the Library (Huggs is a certified therapy dog).  
Groton Public Library, 2012



Teens create glow in the dark art in the Library during our Summer Reading Program, "Under the Stars".  
Groton Public Library, 2012