

## **GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Vanessa Abraham, Director*

Hours: Tue-Thu 10am-9pm • Fri 10am-6pm • Sat 10am-5pm • Sun 1-5pm (Sept-May) • Mon closed  
GPL.ORG • info@gpl.org • Trustees Monthly Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm (gpltrustees@gpl.org)  
Main: 978-448-1167 • Children's: 978-448-1168 • Reference: 978-448-8000 • Fax: 978-448-1169

**Mission.** The Groton Public Library provides free access to collections, services, and programs that enrich the lives of all in our community. Library services are provided in a professional, friendly, and confidential environment that also promotes the joys and benefits of reading and lifelong learning.

**Roof.** The Town of Groton voted overwhelmingly to support and fund a new library roof, supplemented by a generous Community Preservation Act grant for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic 1893 roof. The newly completed roof in Jan. 2020 is a testament to the quality of the design, installation, and oversight of this project using time-tested materials (slate, copper) to create a 100+ year roof life expectancy for this historic and expanded library, one of the most beautiful buildings in Groton.

**Carpet.** New carpeting was installed in May, which required the closing of the second and third floors of the library for three weeks, as all collections, furniture, and shelving had to be removed, stored, then reinstalled. Our can-do and creative staff worked together to offer a surprising number of library services to adults and teens from the very limited space of the first-floor lobby and community room.

**Space Redesign.** The second-floor circulation and adult browsing area was redesigned to open views to the windows, to be more welcoming and inviting, and to facilitate easier browsing of popular materials - one of the topmost requested improvements from our 2015 town-wide survey. The Circulation Desk was reduced (right-sized) and now a beautiful new book display greets patrons as they enter the floor. We are grateful to the Town Trust Commissioners and the GPL Endowment Trust for funding this work.

**Use.** Despite months of disruption from these three major construction projects, GPL remained open regular hours throughout and welcomed 99,150 visitors through our doors. Library users connected to wireless internet 17,260 times, booked the meeting and study rooms 1,714 times for personal or group use, and searched our databases 14,843 times. Staff answered 6,235 questions on everything from genealogy research to a good mystery recommendation to writing a resume to homework help.

**Collections.** Patrons borrowed 167,539 physical items and 21,642 digital books, audiobooks, music, magazines, videos, and graphic novels. Collection access in OverDrive was greatly expanded when MVLC joined other Massachusetts Library Networks in a Reciprocal Lending Agreement of digital titles.

**Programs.** Programs continue to be phenomenally successful, with 10,298 people attending 663 library programs. The Annual Groton Reads event celebrated *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin with many programs, but the biggest event of the year was the Summer Reading Fan Fest Kick-Off in June, which led to 1,133 kids, teens, and adults participating in the Summer Reading Program.

Respectfully submitted,

**Board of Trustees of the Groton Public Library:** Chair: Marilyn (Mimi) Dabritz. Vice-Chair: Kristen von Campe. Secretary: Mark Gerath. Members: Jane Allen, Nancy Wilder, and David Zeiler.



Photo: John Ellenberger, library roof nearly complete, Jan. 19, 2020



cropped version