

GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY (GPL)

Vanessa Abraham, Director

GPL.ORG • info@gpl.org • Trustees Monthly Meeting held 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm
Main: 978-448-1167 • Children: 978-448-1168 • Reference: 978-448-8000 • Fax: 978-448-1169

GPL re-opened fully to the public on June 15, 2021 - for the first time since March 13, 2020 (at the start of the pandemic.) While open for most of FY2021, it was by appointment only for adults, so this was a VERY exciting day! It was also the first day of Summer Reading for all ages.

It was a banner year for programs, with 833 programs offered – the most ever! It was an amazing year of virtual, hybrid, in person, take & make, and outdoor events to engage, connect, enrich, and support residents of all ages during a time of unprecedented isolation.

For Groton Reads, Groton read *March*, a non-fiction graphic novel trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin with Nate Powell. It was the first time a graphic novel was selected - which introduced the format to many adults. Over 30 programs were offered on Zoom and outdoors, with many community partnerships.

Curbside pick-up, Children's Window Service, Groton Delivery, and Remote Services were offered all year for the safety, comfort, and convenience of patrons. Kanopy streaming video was added to expand digital offerings to meet the increase in usage during COVID.

GPL went fine-free this year, along with libraries nationwide, in recognition of fines as an economic barrier to access, especially to those who can least afford it. Overdue fines penalize physical checkouts and hit parents of young children the hardest (with all the picture books.)

A completely new website was launched in September to replace the old site and meet current security standards, be mobile friendly, and easier to navigate and update. Staff also needed to learn, set up, and migrate to four new online modules to replace Library Insight for GPL's online event calendar, room booking, museum pass reservations, and summer reading software.

Nicole Irvin became the new Head of Circulation & Adult Services following Lisa Baylis's retirement in April.

Open hours were reduced to 44 hours/week (instead of the usual 48) because of FY22 personnel budget cuts. GPL closed one hour early Tuesday-Friday and there were no Sunday hours. Once the full personnel budget was restored at Fall Town Meeting and permanent positions filled, full year-round hours resumed on January 1, 2022.

Board of Trustees of the Groton Public Library: Chair: Dave Zeiler. Vice-Chair: Jane Allen.
Secretary: Kate Bettencourt. Members: Mark Gerath, Kristen von Campe, and Nancy Wilder.
gpltrustees@gpl.org

[OPTIONAL – Keep only if Room] *Mission: To provide free access to collections, services, and programs that enrich the lives of all in our community. To provide this in a professional, friendly, and confidential environment that promotes the joys and benefits of reading and learning.*

PICTURED: Outdoor Storytime in the Garden, Wed. Sept. 8, 2021. Children’s Librarian Lauren Sanchez far left.

