

**Bill Memorial Library**  
240 Monument Street  
Groton, CT 06340



# **BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

## **2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

*The mission of the Bill Memorial Library is to meet the changing needs of our community in a comfortable and unique historic setting by stimulating imagination through reading, viewing and listening for pleasure; providing the resources for lifelong learning; inspiring young readers; and connecting to the online world.* Revised July 2014, Board of Trustees

## From the Director's Desk

Greetings!

As our community evolves, the Bill Memorial Library is looking to the future for ways to support your needs. As of this writing, the Bill Memorial Library Board of Trustees has just completed a series of strategic planning meetings, made possible with a capacity-building grant from Connecticut Humanities. While we are still awaiting the final document, we considered the hard questions and left no stone unturned. We focused a lot on “right-sizing” and reexamining our mission statement. This document will guide us through the next 3 years.

One aspect of our strategic planning was reaching out for community input through focus groups and surveys, made possible by a grant from the Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence. We were interested to hear what the Bill Memorial means to you and which services and programs you value most. Most responses fell into four main themes: borrowing materials for education and recreation, preserving our history and historic building, maintaining our quality customer services, and offering quality programming for all ages.

Given our small size, we know we can't be all things to all people. Please know we are listening and we are working hard to meet the needs of our community with the resources we do have. Thank you for being an integral part of the Bill Memorial Library community.

Sincerely,

Wendy Connal, Library Director



(l-r) Board members Jackie Massett, Robert Zuliani, Mark Oefinger, Lea Doran, and Barbara Frucht.

All of our Board Members dedicate many hours to the library

### Library Trustees FY 2018-2019

Barbara Frucht	<b>President</b>
Naomi Otterness	<b>Vice-President</b>
Janet Downs	<b>Secretary</b>
Robert Zuliani	<b>Treasurer</b>
Mark R. Oefinger	<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>
Lea Doran	
Jane Giuliani	
Conrad Heede	
Jackie Massett	
Kenneth McBride	
Christy McElroy	
Dane Stevenson	
Elizabeth Swindell	
Barbara Tarbox	

## 2018-2019 Donors

The Bill Memorial Library receives 9% of our annual operating budget from the Town of Groton. As a small private library that is free and open to the public, we are dependent on public contributions for a large portion of our annual budget. We are thankful for the financial support of so many in the community who value the programs and services the Bill Memorial Library provides.

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Robert L. Zuliani

### BUSINESS DONORS

Charter Oak Credit Union  
Fidelity Charitable  
Groton Utilities  
Morgan Stanley  
Paul's Pasta Shop  
Pfizer Foundation

### **Memorial Donations**

Gifts made in honor of a loved one  
**Arnold W. Avery**  
Susan A. & John H. Durham



**Library Founder Frederic Bill**

## 2018-2019 VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers make things happen! We are grateful for the talent and energy so many in the community donated to the Library.

This year 76 people graciously donated their time and efforts to the library:

### Teens

Jannatul Anika	Samantha Maiolo
Rory Badeaux	Gabriela Manuel
Arfa Begum	Micaela Manuel
Olivia Bills	Beverly Mayberry
Zoe Braco	Gideon McElroy
Dominic Bruno	Paulie Perez
Drusilla Burdo	Avery Rembish
Brayden Caouette	Frankie Rivera
Samantha Chaix	Heather Rodriguez
Aurora Clinton	Naomi Sayer
Clare Connal-	Jazmyn Towpase
Nicolaou	Mary Ann Trant
Angela Dielli	Amaya Valentin
Connor Harris	Hannah Ward
Arabella Hatfield	Haley Weaver
Madeline Hatfield	Bowen Zhao
Gianna Heckendorn	
Mariah Jacobson	
Sage Jansky	
Natalia Lallis	
Nicole Lincoln	

### Adults

Joellen Anderson	Erica Lombardi
Sheryl Atencio	Emily Lavoie
Annie Baxter	Stephanie Maiolo
Brian Bergman	Jackie Massett
Scott Carle	Christy McElroy
Jane L. Clukay	Eric McElroy
Ruth Connal	Molly McElroy
Marsha Dietrich	Kate Nelson
Lea Doran	Christine Post
Janet Downs	Bill Pratt
Steven Dufilie	Keaton Sanborn
Charles Ebbinghaus	Hannah Sherman
Jude Ebbinghaus	Kathy Spindler
Barbara Frucht	Dane Stevenson
Kathleen Harkins	Archie Swindell
Hon. Keith Hedrick	Elizabeth Swindell
Conrad Heede	Daniel Turner
Timothy C. Jackson	William A. Welles
Peter Keramidas	Gail Yeo
Bernadette Kunkemoeller	Robert Zuliani



**Children's Librarian  
Mary-Jane Carle and Friend**

## 2018-2019 Community Partners

Avery-Copp House  
 City of Groton  
 City of Groton Police Department  
 Connecticut Humanities  
 Girls Who Code  
 Groton Animal Foundation  
 Groton Bank Day  
 Groton Public Schools  
 Groton Public Schools Summer Food Service Program  
 Groton Utilities  
 Make Music Day  
 Riverfront Children's Center  
 Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition  
 Thames River Heritage Park  
 ThayerMahan  
 Town of Groton  
 Trillium Garden Club

# FRIENDS OF THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Friends of the Bill Memorial Library is made up of volunteers who are integral to the success of events such as Groton Bank Day, Sing Along with Santa, the Bunny Bonanza and Summer Reading.

In addition, the Friends host several events of their own as well as supporting the library and the library staff . Anyone can join the Friends— we invite you to be a part of this wonderful group of library supporters!

## EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS INCLUDE ~

Library Book Sales

Cocoa & Crafts

Community Coloring & Crafting

Sponsor a Summer Reader Program ~

Donors sponsored 100 readers this summer!



Summer readers choosing their free books



The new Story Time parachute made possible by the Chelsea Groton Foundation

Mayor Keith Hedrick presenting Library Director Wendy Connal with a check from the Neighborhood Assistance Act



## Grants Awarded FY 2018-2019

Funder	Project
1772 Foundation	Roof Repair
State Historic Preservation Of-	Capital Needs Assessment
Chelsea Groton Foundation	Storytime Supplies
Community Foundation of East-	Summer Reading
CT Humanities	Strategic Planning
Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence	Community Needs Assessment
Mystic Woman's Club	Summer Reading
Walmart	Summer Reading
Young Adult Library Services	Teen Summer Intern Grant

## 2018-2019 Budget

### Income

Endowment Income	\$191,940.00
Fundraising/Other	31,125.00
Town of Groton Municipal Funding	23,000.00
	<b>\$246,065.00</b>

### Expenses

Personnel	\$162,602.00
Library Materials	21,150.00
Technology, Supplies & Programming	16,393.00
Buildings & Grounds	23,195.00
Other Operating Expenses	22,725.00
	<b>\$246,065.00</b>

## TEEN PROGRAMS

Coordinated by Kate Bengtson, the library offered 10 special programs and 8 Summer Reading programs for teens this year. In addition, the library held a Girls Who Code club, supported the Teen Advisory Board, provided outreach to Groton Public Schools (including a weekly book club at West Side Middle School), and held coding workshops with classes from the Riverfront Children's Center.



Intergalactic Painting Party!



Kate Bengtson leads a coding demonstration with the children from The Riverfront Children's Center

### OUR MOST POPULAR MONTHLY PROGRAMS

- Eco-Cosplay Contest
- DIY Literary Holiday Gifts
- The Great Ramen Challenge
- Protect Your Peeps
- Teen Advisory Board Haunted Library Fundraiser
- Teen Advisory Board CLA Presentation

### 2019 SUMMER READING HIGHLIGHTS

- Teen Intern Program/Cultural Banquet
- Bottle Rockets
- Paint Party with Pam's Picassos
- Intergalactic Crafting



Teen Interns Samantha Maiolo and Jannatul Anika

### 2019 Summer Reading Sponsors

- Argia Mystic Cruises
- Big Y Foods, Inc.
- Board of Trustees, Bill Memorial Library
- Book Barn
- Book Trader
- Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut
- Connecticut Humanities
- Connecticut Science Center
- Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
- Foxwoods Resort Casino
- Friends of the Bill Memorial Library
- Gabrieles Martial Arts
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
- Mystic Aquarium
- Mystic Seaport
- The Mystic Woman's Club
- Mystified Escape Room Adventures
- Adventure Mystic
- Panera Bread
- Paul's Pasta
- Pizza Today
- Project Oceanology
- Sarge's Comics
- The Valley Railroad Company
- Water Wizz of Westerly

# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Our weekly all-ages Story Time, which includes music and other interactive elements, is held throughout the year and is well-attended. We also held 15 popular special programs for children and families, many featuring live animals, live music, and Star Wars! We continued our partnership with The Riverfront Children's Center by hosting their classes for story times. Our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program continues and saw several children complete this milestone.



Star Wars Reads Day



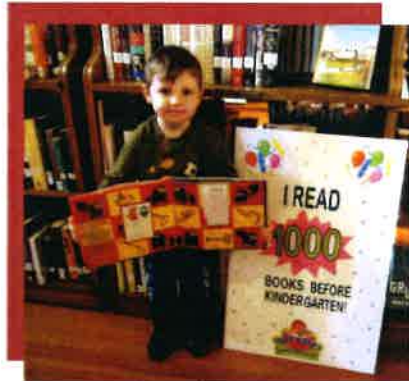
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center



Make Music Day



Calvin Barnett,  
our first 1000 Books  
Before Kindergarten  
finisher!



## OUR MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS

- Jeepers Creepers—Riverside Reptiles
- Holiday Musical Story Time
- Nappy's Puppets
- Marigolds for Mom (or Any Other Special Someone!)
- Make Music Day
- Animal Embassy

## 2019 SUMMER READING HIGHLIGHTS

This summer's theme was *A Universe of Stories* and featured our galaxy game board. Over 100 kids participated in our game, reading 2246 days total! Hundreds attended our 10 weekly Summer Reading special programs, including:

- Donkeys from Tripledale Farm
- Jason Deeble Drawing Workshop
- Ed Popielarczyk's Magical Moments Show
- The Creature Teachers
- ScienceTellers
- Goats from Red Brook Farm



Donkeys from  
Tripledale  
Farm

Jason Deeble  
Drawing  
Workshop



## ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Bill Memorial Library is committed to offering a variety of quality programming for all ages. Popular programs bring families to the library and introduce them to the many wonderful books, materials, services and other resources we offer. Events held at the library this year were educational, historical, musical, entertaining—there was something for everyone! Below is just a small sample.



(L) Ultimate Road Trip  
with Bill Pratt



(R) Free Comic Book Day /  
Star Wars Day

## BUNNY BONANZA!

A record 470 adults & children attended this popular annual program that included live bunnies AND baby goats!



### OTHER PROGRAMS THIS YEAR ~

- Connecticut Author Trail:  
Beer Is For Everyone
- Revisiting the Founding Era with  
Flock Theater
- Take Your Child to the Library Day
- Library Innovation with ThayerMahan's  
John Kao
- Gaming at the Library
- Adult Summer Reading
- Community Cafés
- A Walk in the Woods with  
Joellen Anderson

## SING-ALONG WITH SANTA!



Festive carolers sang along to live music before meeting Santa Claus and enjoying cookies & hot cocoa.