

Bill Memorial Library  
240 Monument Street  
Groton, CT 06340



# BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Photo credit : Bill Pratt

*The mission of the Bill Memorial Library is to meet the needs of the community in a welcoming and unique historic setting by stimulating imagination, providing the resources for lifelong learning, inspiring young patrons, and connecting to the online world.*

Revised Oct. 2020, Board of Trustees

# From the Director's Desk

Dear Library Patrons,

This past year has seen the library slowly returning to normal and we couldn't be happier. More and more of you are venturing inside, checking out materials, attending programs and using our space. We've learned a lot the last few years and as a result many of the strategies used during COVID continue to benefit the library.

Programming - while we've resumed in-person programming, we continue to offer virtual programming as well, especially for adults.

Automatic holds – we began a popular campaign to encourage patrons to let us know which authors they automatically read so we can place holds on those books well in advance of the book's release. If you're interested in joining, give us a call!

Outdoor space – while we held programs outside out of necessity the past few years, we decided to further develop our property as an extension of the library space. We are currently exploring a plan to create a functional and beautiful programming space to make the best use of our grounds.

Indoor space – our primary circulation desk remains in its location in the main room, ensuring a better flow for patrons. Thanks to a gift from the Henry Carter Hull Library, we have a sister desk to our original circulation desk in the front hall—both made by Melvil Dewey's library furniture company!

As we continue to make improvements to our historical building, we are pleased to announce that we will be replacing and restoring our windows thanks to Groton Utilities and the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

Please come see us to check out these exciting changes, and thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Director Wendy Connal

Every day is a new adventure at the Bill Memorial Library!



## Library Trustees

FY 2021-2022

Janet Downs	<b>President</b>
Lea Doran	<b>Vice President</b>
Jackie Massett	<b>Secretary</b>
Robert Zuliani	<b>Treasurer</b>
Mark R. Oefinger	<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>

Conrad Heede  
Bernadette Kunkemoeller  
Kenneth McBride  
Christy McElroy  
Naomi Otterness  
Jill Rusk



Timothy Jackson, longtime and faithful volunteer (shown with Library Director Wendy Connal and Mayor Keith Hedrick), received the 2022 Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award and named Bill Memorial Library as the beneficiary of the \$1,000 charitable donation that goes with the award.



## 2021-2022 Donors

The Bill Memorial Library receives 11% 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

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Virginia Ager  
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Tom Althuis  
Joellen Anderson  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
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David Rose and Shirleyann Dunbar-Rose  
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Bill and Deborah Sanford  
George and MaryAnn Scully  
Andrea and Anthony Skiff  
Dane Stevenson  
Duncan and Lolly Stoddard  
Jim and Irma Streeter

### BUSINESS DONORS

Charter Oak Credit Union  
Groton Utilities  
Pfizer Foundation  
Stop & Shop  
Atlantic Broadband  
Breezeline

### **Memorial Donations**

Gifts made in honor of a loved one

**Mary-Jane Stanley**

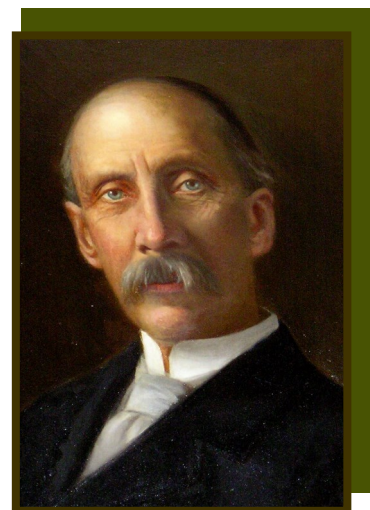
By Peter Stanley

### **Tribute Gifts**

in honor of

**Donna Johnston**

Elizabeth and Archie Swindell



**Library Founder Frederic Bill**

## 2021-2022 VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful for the talent and energy that our volunteers generously donated to the Library.  
Many hours were spent on maintenance projects, fundraisers and programming

Julie Allen	Bernadette Kunkemoeller
Kaleigh Allen	Samyuktha Kuruchi
Ted Allen	Emily Lavoie
Annie Baxter	Darlynea Le Page
Mary Benson	Erica Lombardi
Brian Bergman	Christy McElroy
Meredith Bogue	Eric McElroy
Noelle Boles	Sue Palmieri
Ruth Connal	Beverly Platts
Ky Connal-Nicolaou	Christine Post
Anuja Dharmadhikari	Bill Pratt
Scott Carle	David Rose
Marsha Dietrich	Kathy Spencer
Lea Doran	Kathy Spindler
Rachel Goodman	Dane Stevenson
Jean Gustafson	Barbara Tarbox
Mayor Keith Hedrick	U.S. Navy volunteers
Timothy Jackson	Sharon Webster
Eileen Johnson	Denise Wehner
Aditya Joshi	Alexis Zepko
Colleen King	Rob Zuliani

***Our volunteers put in well over  
1000 hours***

### 2021-2022 Community Partners

Avery-Copp House  
 Children First Groton  
 City of Groton  
 City of Groton Parks & Recreation  
 City of Groton Police Department  
 Connecticut Humanities  
 Friends of Fort Griswold  
 Girls Who Code  
 Groton Bank Day - Groton Heights Open House Day  
 Groton Utilities  
 Lyman Allyn Art Museum  
 PACT- Police and Community Together  
 Pro Bono Partnership



The beautiful holiday wreath created for the library  
by Mary Cuthbert of the Trillium Garden Club

Grants Awarded	FY 2021-2022
Chelsea Groton Foundation	Summer programming partnership with the Riverfront Children's Center
CT Humanities	Capacity building grant, operating grant
Groton Education Foundation	A/V equipment
TechSoup	Technology grant



Vendors at the annual Artisan Market

## FRIENDS OF THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Friends of the Bill Memorial Library is made up of dedicated volunteers who are integral to the success of many library events, including Summer Reading. The Friends host several events of their own as well, including book sales and the annual Artisan Market. Anyone can join the Friends—we invite you to be a part of this wonderful group of library supporters!



*Last October the Friends created an entry for the City of Groton's Scarecrow Trail Contest. Their inspiration came from Clancy, the library's unofficial canine mascot. Their entry, Clancy the Big White Dog, won first place!*



### 2021-2022 Library Budget

#### Income

Endowment Income	\$205,272.00
Fundraising/Other	36,566.00
Town of Groton Municipal Funding	<u>30,000.00</u>
	<b>\$271,838.00</b>

#### Expenses

Personnel	\$184,703.00
Library Materials	21,093.00
Technology, Supplies & Programming	17,459.00
Buildings & Grounds	26,720.00
Other Operating Expenses	<u>21,863.00</u>
	<b>\$271,838.00</b>

### THE FRIENDS OF THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY SPONSOR A SUMMER READER DONORS Thank you for making a difference!

Joellen Anderson	Jonathan and Michiko Johnson
Martin P. Artale, Jr.	Joseph Kane
Richard and Jane Bucklin	Mary E. LaForce
Barbara N. Conte	Kenneth and Jane Moriarty
Charlie Ebbinghaus	Fritz and Lyn Poppe
Barbara Frucht	Kevin and Carmella Prendergast
Larry and Barbara Gerrish	Bill and Deborah Sanford
Myles Halliwell	Mary-Jo Shultz
Robyn Hoffmann and Brent Eugenides	Andrea and Anthony Skiff
Timothy Jackson	Charles and Patricia Warrington
Alyssa Johnson	The Webster Family



## TEENS ~ GIRLS WHO CODE

Girls Who Code is a program for middle and high school girls that aims to close the gender gap and make technology a more inclusive career.

This year, participants created a website called "Destress and Decompress," full of information and fun things to "help teens or anyone else dealing with issues cope with the stresses of life."

Weekly activities included ~

- Interviewing an expert in her technology field
- Making crafts that explored the intersection of art and science
- Brainstorming ideas of projects to help our community
- Learning how to code in a variety of programming languages



Girls Who Code, led by Catherine Boudreau and Wendy Connal



## TEEN SUMMER READING

Teens were back in-person this summer! Led by Alex Ellis, summer programs were popular and well-attended, including ~

- Mochi Making
- Murder Mystery on the Lawn
- Crafts—Recycled Art Maker Workshop



**5 SUMMER TEEN PROGRAMS**

**OVER 50 TEENS IN ATTENDANCE!**

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Throughout the winter and into spring, with social distancing in mind, the library continued to offer virtual programming for kids and adults, with programs presented via Zoom and Facebook Live. Volunteers Bill Pratt, Scott Carle and Brian Bergman, along with Children's Librarian Mary-Jane Carle, created prerecorded content for patrons and outreach.

Some of the many programs offered included ~

- Food For Thought Book Club
- Virtual Beer Tasting with the Outer Light Brewing Co.
- Make Pumpkin Cinnamon Rolls from Scratch
- Picture Book Writing Class with Winsome Bingham
- Holiday Sing Along with Santa



Mary-Jane Carle presents Storytime via Facebook Live along with Brian Bergman and library mascot Freddie.



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Children's programming came back in a big way this past year! Children's Librarian Mary-Jane Carle planned many popular in-person programs for kids while continuing to make use of Facebook Live for virtual programs. Take & Make Craft Kits remained popular as well. Several children completed our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program and are featured in our Children's Room. We made use of our beautiful outdoor space for weekly Storytimes, popular Sing-Alongs with live music and Summer Reading programs. We continued our partnership with The Riverfront Children's Center to include their classes in many of our programs.



Clancy basking in the attention at his appearance at Storytime



A toothy visitor from our Riverside Reptiles program



Officer Jason Hauptman from the City of Groton Police Department was a special guest at Storytime.

## 2022 SUMMER READING HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 50 kids PreK-Gr 5 participated in the return of our summer reading game, with a total of 1,500 days read, an average of 26 days read per child.
- We distributed over 1000 Take a Hike Trail Passports! Library patrons, City of Groton Parks & Rec participants, the families at the Riverfront Children's Center and every student at the Thames River Magnet School received a passport to encourage families to explore nature trails right here in Groton.
- We hosted several outdoor programs for families, including programs by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Horizon Wings Raptors, the Florence Griswold Museum and Tripledale Farm.
- Members of the library Board of Trustees, library staff and the Friends of the Bill Memorial Library generously donated gift cards to use as prizes for our Summer Readers.



The Jedi of Kessel Temple taught younglings the basics of using the Force and how to wield a lightsaber!

### PROGRAM TOTALS

Ages Birth to 5	41 programs
Attendance	2,101
Ages 6 to 11	17 programs
Attendance	869



## ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Bill Memorial Library offered both in-person and virtual programming for adults and families.

Our Food for Thought Book Group met monthly, both at the library and at Par Four.

The library offered several popular Take & Make Craft Kits for adults. Staff member Mary Howard taught 2 very popular Kombucha classes and maintained our display case, which featured interesting collections from our community. There is always something happening at the library!



Dozens of enthusiastic Fab Four fans participated in our Adult Beatles Sing-Along on Make Music Day!



Volunteer David Rose led an informative tour of Fort Griswold while in period costume.



Container gardening class with the Trillium Garden Club

### PROGRAM TOTAL FOR ADULTS & FAMILIES

30 programs

735 in attendance

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR ~

- Virtual Beer Tasting with Outer Light Brewing Company
- Container Gardening with the Trillium Garden Club
- Jolabokafloð Holiday Book Giveaway
- Online Cooking Class - Pumpkin Rolls
- Birding with the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
- Take Your Child to the Library Day—Pete the Cat!



Celebrating Pete the Cat on Take Your Child to the Library Day