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
Dear Library Patrons,

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank four of our incredible volunteers.

Donna Johnston has facilitated our book group, Food for Thought, since its founding in April of 2005. We meet monthly and enjoy lunch followed by a lively discussion of the book. Donna does an incredible job of finding reviews and interviews with the author that deepen our understanding of each title. We end the calendar year by choosing titles for the coming year. Donna, thank you for being the glue that holds this group together!

Tim Jackson uses more than glue to hold the library together (although a lot of glue gets used). Tim has saved the library thousands of dollars by doing small repairs, moving heavy things, finding solutions to our unique problems and engineering fixes. I don’t have room in this letter or even in this report to list all the things Tim has done for the library, and we are truly grateful.

David Rose can be found at the library helping with our weekly storytimes, parking cars at events, or attending Friends meetings. He even used his vast knowledge of the Battle of Groton Heights to give a program and tour of the Fort for the Friends of the Library!

Lastly, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Emily Lavoie, our outgoing chair of the Friends group and the person who created and managed our Fall Artisan Market. Although the weather didn’t cooperate this year, this is a successful fundraiser for the library, one that the Friends our Board’s fundraising committee will continue.

We are so fortunate to have people volunteer their time to help the library.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Wendy Connal, Library Director
2022-2023 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 for the financial support of so many in the community who value the programs and services that the Bill Memorial Library provides.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Jo Aldred
Roger S. Allen
Joellen Anderson
Anonymous
Martin P. Artale, Jr.
Bruce Avery
The Barnett Boys
Charlotte Barnum
Dom and Sherry Bassi
Paul Bates
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Jane and Richard Bucklin
Milly Carlson
Clarence Casper
Charles Ebbinghaus
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Kathy Cruise
Mary Cuthbert
Marsha and Steve Dietrich
Lea Doran and Gail Cueto
Michelle Doty
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Charlie Ebbinghaus
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The Webster Family
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BUSINESS DONORS

Breezeway
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
High Mowing Seeds
Paul's Pasta Shop
Pfizer Foundation
Seed Savers Exchange
UConn Extension Master Gardener Program

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Arnold W. Avery
by Susan and John Durham
Keith B. Busiere
by B. Jean Connal
Jude Ebbinghaus
by Charles Ebbinghaus
Phil Houk
by Donna Houk
Joan Konicki
by Tommy and Katie Cash
Jessica Clark
Nita Renee Davis
Lea Doran and Gail Cueto
Cynthia and Jay Fortner
Micheline and Christopher Jedrey
Michele and Howard Kessler
Jane Lionelli
Jackie Massett
Suzanne H. Palmieri
John Petrick
Jon and Sharon Roberts
David Rose and Shirleyann Dunbar-Rose
Francine Sproul
Jim Streeter
Elizabeth and Jeffrey Sweet
Colleen Whipple
Margaret Orkney
by Nancy Orkney
Ella Petrick
by Eileen Cerniglia
Cindy and Dick Gillum
Nancy Orkney Hileman
Jane Lionelli
Sandra McCourt
Jane and Kenneth Moriarty
Karen Podurgiel
Bill and Deborah Sanford
Mary Stober
Lance Rockefeller
by Meryl Rockefeller
2022-2023 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 that enriched the Library’s services to our community. Thank you!

Our volunteers put in well over 1000 hours helping the library this year!

2022-2023 Community Partners
Avery-Copp House
Children First Groton
City of Groton
City of Groton Fire Department
City of Groton Parks & Recreation
City of Groton Police Department
Connecticut Humanities
Girls Who Code
Groton Heights Open House Day
Groton Public Schools
Groton Utilities
Henry Carter Hull Library
Jonathan Trumbull Library
Lyman Allyn Art Museum
PACT- Police and Community Together
Pro Bono Partnership
Rainbow “Lifting Lives”
Riverfront Children’s Center
Rotary Club of Groton
Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition
Stop & Shop Community Bag Program
Thames River Heritage Park
Town of Groton
Trillium Garden Club
UConn Master Gardener Program

Grants Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants Awarded</th>
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<tr>
<td>CT Humanities</td>
<td>Capacity building grant, operating grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Assistance Act / Groton Utilities</td>
<td>Energy-efficient windows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Jackson—Jacqueline B. Nixon Award</td>
<td>Staff development</td>
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David Rose in period clothing leading a guided tour of Fort Griswold
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 the annual Artisan Market. Anyone can join the Friends—we invite you to be a part of this wonderful group of library supporters!

**2022-2023 Library Budget**

**Income**
- Endowment Income: $205,272.00
- Fundraising/Other: $38,579.00
- Town of Groton Municipal Funding: $35,000.00

**Total Income:** $278,851.00

**Expenses**
- Personnel: $190,597.00
- Library Materials: $22,009.00
- Technology, Supplies & Programming: $17,383.00
- Buildings & Grounds: $25,077.00
- Other Operating Expenses: $23,785.00

**Total Expenses:** $278,851.00

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**THE FRIENDS OF THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY SPONSOR A SUMMER READER DONORS**

Thank you for making a difference!

Joellen Anderson  
Anonymous  
Martin P. Artale, Jr.  
Bruce Avery  
Charlotte Barnum  
Jane and Richard Bucklin  
Robert and Phyllis Champagne  
Anibal Cintron  
Marsha and Steve Dietrich  
Michelle Doty  
Janet Downs  
George M. Drakeley  
Susan and John Durham  
Charlie Ebbinghaus  
Marian Galbraith  
Robyn Hoffmann and Brent Eugenides  
Timothy Jackson  
Eileen Johnson  
Jonathan and Michiko Johnson  
Joseph Kane, Jr.  
Dan Karns  
Paul and Bernadette Kunkemoeller  
Mary E. LaForce  
Emily Lavoie  
David and Erin McBride  
Mark and Lori McClain  
Christy and Eric McElroy  
Jane and Kenneth Moriarty  
Kate and Dan Nelson  
Sheila and Dan O'Donnell  
Lana and Dimi Orphanides  
Andrea and Anthony Skiff  
Duncan and Lolly Stoddard  
Charles and Patricia Warrington  
Beverly Washington  
The Webster Family  
Robert Zuliani

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**Marigolds for Mom (or Another Special Person) program, made possible with assistance from the Friends**
**TEENS ~ School-Year Fun!**

Teens attended a wide variety of fun, informative (and often yummy) programs after school, including:

- Teen Fairie Dwellings
- Recipe Gift Jars
- Candy Mosaics and a Cake Decorating Challenge
- Teen LEGO Building Challenge
- 5-Second Rule and Jackbox game nights

We also offered the Girls Who Code program to middle and high school girls, which aims to make technology a more inclusive career. Coders worked independently to learn coding languages, made crafts that combined STEM and art, and problem-solved together.

**TEEN SUMMER READING**

This past summer was full of popular programs that challenged teens to think creatively.

- Pizza and Trivia Night, complete with buzzers!
- DIY Neon Signs
- Werewolf (a fun social game, very well-attended and destined to be repeated)
- Tie-dye Shirts
- Paint Party, led by staffer Catherine Boudreau

**VIRTUAL and OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING and OFFERINGS**

With public physical health and mental stimulation in mind, the library continued to offer Take-and-Make Crafts and virtual and outdoor programming for kids and adults. The Friends and teen volunteers helped with preparing craft packs; and Brian Bergman, Bill Pratt, and Scott Carle, along with Children’s Librarian Mary-Jane Carle, created prerecorded content for patrons and outreach. Some of the many programs offered included ~

- Book Pennants adult craft (courtesy of the Friends)
- Bee craft, Hearts take & make
- “Shake” video for Music & Movement (thanks, Bill Pratt!)
- Summer Reading promotional video
- Unboxing new children’s books videos
CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Children’s programming was in full swing this past year! Several children completed our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program and are featured in our Children’s Room. We started a continuation program, 500 Books Before Middle School, with many school-age kids signing up and participating. 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.

2023 SCHOOL-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- We continued our popular weekly Storytime, including sessions outside when the weather cooperated. Special guests included Clancy and his human, Molly and Merritt and their human, and the City of Groton Fire Department (and one of their trucks!).
- New to the program lineup were a weekly Music & Movement session and monthly LEGO Club gatherings. Music & Movement featured guest musicians Marsha Dietrich on the accordion and Bill Pratt on multiple instruments.
- We celebrated Dinovember with passive activities through the month of November, including a raffle of terrific handmade wooden dinosaur toys, made and donated by Charles Ebbinghaus.
- Our collaboration with Lyman Allyn Art Museum offered monthly art programs for school-age children.

2023 SUMMER READING HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 60 kids PreK-Gr 5 participated in a simplified, fun new version of our summer reading game, with a total of 1,140 days read, an average of 19 days read per child.
- 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.

PROGRAM TOTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Programs</th>
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<td>Ages Birth to 5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1,472</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 6 to 11</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1,020</td>
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</table>
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 at Par Four. The library offered several popular Take & Make Craft Kits for adults. Our staff members offered their expertise through programs and services: Mary taught a very popular sourdough starter class, Eileen performed her Notary duties, and Alex and Catherine provided several Tech Help Sessions.

There is always something interesting happening at the library!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR ~

- Seed Starting with UConn Extension Master Gardener Pat Mandell
- Jolabokaflod Holiday Book Giveaway
- Take Your Child to the Library Day
- Make Music Day: Revisit the 60’s and 70’s
- Beading Classes for Beginners
- Virtual talk with Aaron McBride, senior art director at Industrial Light and Magic
- Neurodiversity Superpowers with Michael Whitehouse
- Author talk with James Benn, known for the popular Billy Boyle WWII mystery series

PROGRAM TOTAL FOR ADULTS & FAMILIES:

- 55 programs
- 1,339 in attendance

Bill Pratt and Marc Bernier, Bacon Banjo Company Program (not pictured: Jason Rusk)

Video available on our website!

Full house at the Architect Dudley St. Clair Donnelly Program, led by Barbara Nagy and Rick Gipstein

Mango the Opossum of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue

Children's Librarian Mary-Jane with a donkey from Tripledale Farms Petting Zoo

“My Summer Course in the Galapagos” with college student Ky Connal-Nicolaou