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

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Lea Doran  Vice President
Jackie Massett  Secretary
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Dane Stevenson
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Timothy Jackson, longtime and faithful volunteer, and Library Director Wendy Connal, with the new parking lot-accessible book drop generously donated by the Jonathan Trumbull Library.
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.

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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

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<td>Tim Jackson—Jacqueline B. Nixon Award</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!

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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
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- 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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### 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
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

OVER 50 TEENS IN ATTENDANCE!

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

Above: Tie-dyed t-shirts
Below, far left: Paint Party
Below, left: Faerie Dwellings

Crafts! Food! Games!

Summer Reading Program video courtesy of Bill Pratt and Scott Carle

Heart Take & Make (Photo courtesy of Jenny Wade)
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.
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

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

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