

Bill Memorial Library  
240 Monument Street  
Groton, CT 06340



## BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY



### 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*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,

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



**Director Wendy Connal**  
Everyone loves to be involved with the fun at Bill Memorial Library!



## Library Trustees FY 2022-2023

Janet Downs	<b>President</b>
Lea Doran	<b>Vice President</b>
Jackie Massett	<b>Secretary</b>
Robert Zuliani	<b>Treasurer</b>
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Michelle Doty  
Bernadette Kunkemoeller  
Kenneth McBride  
Christy McElroy  
Naomi Otterness  
Jill Rusk  
Jason Rusk  
Dane Stevenson  
Elizabeth Swindell



**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.

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Duncan and Lolly Stoddard  
Jim Streeter  
Elizabeth and Archie Swindell  
Barbara and Harold Tarbox  
Penny Vail  
Fred and Dorothy Walker  
The Webster Family  
Michael Whitehouse  
Diane and Michael Zieminski  
Robert L. Zuliani

### BUSINESS DONORS

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



Library Founder Frederic Bill

### 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

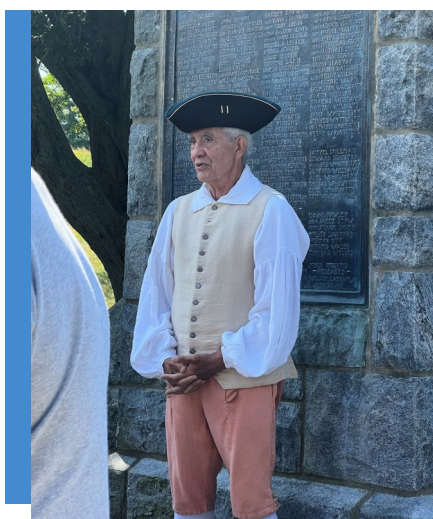
We are grateful for the talent and energy that our volunteers generously donated to the Library. Many hours were spent on maintenance projects, fundraisers and programming that enriched the Library's services to our community. Thank you!

Julie Allen	Pat Mandell
Ted Allen	Jackie Massett
Brian Bergman	Aaron McBride
Noelle Boles	Ken McBride
Scott Carle	Christy McElroy
Pete Connal	Eric McElroy
Ruth Connal	Barbara Nagy
Ky Connal-Nicolaou	Mark Oefinger
Anuja Dharmadhikari	Ivan Otterness
Marsha Dietrich	Naomi Otterness
Lea Doran	Beverly Platts
Michelle Doty	Christine Post
Janet Downs	Bill Pratt
Rick Gipstein	David Rose
Nora Gay	Jason Rusk
Eileen Johnson	Jill Rusk
Donna Johnston	Kathy Spindler
Aditya Joshi	Dane Stevenson
Bernadette Kunkemoeller	Elizabeth Swindell
Emily Lavoie	Barbara Tarbox
Darlynea LePage	U.S. Navy Volunteers
Erica Lombardi	Penny Vail
Stephanie Maiolo	Rob Zuliani

***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



**David Rose in period clothing leading a guided tour of Fort Griswold**

Grants Awarded	FY 2022-2023
CT Humanities	Capacity building grant, operating grant
Neighborhood Assistance Act / Groton Utilities	Energy-efficient windows
Tim Jackson—Jacqueline B. Nixon Award	Staff development



Vendors at the annual  
Artisan Market



Crowd enjoying music  
performed by Azalea Drive at  
Friends Night Out

## 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 the annual Artisan Market. Anyone can join the Friends—we invite you to be a part of this wonderful group of library supporters!

*Marigolds for  
Mom (or  
Another  
Special  
Person)  
program,  
made possible  
with  
assistance  
from the  
Friends*



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

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

### 2022-2023 Library Budget

#### Income

Endowment Income	\$205,272.00
Fundraising/Other	38,579.00
Town of Groton Municipal Funding	<u>35,000.00</u>
	<b>\$278,851.00</b>

#### Expenses

Personnel	\$190,597.00
Library Materials	22,009.00
Technology, Supplies & Programming	17,383.00
Buildings & Grounds	25,077.00
Other Operating Expenses	<u>23,785.00</u>
	<b>\$278,851.00</b>



## 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.



Above: Tie-dyed t-shirts

Below, far left: Paint Party

Below, left: Faerie Dwellings



## 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



Summer Reading Program  
video courtesy of Bill Pratt  
and Scott Carle

Heart Take & Make (Photo  
courtesy of Jenny Wade)



## 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

Ages Birth to 5	52 programs
Attendance	1,472
Ages 6 to 11	23 programs
Attendance	1,020



## 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!



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



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

**PROGRAM  
TOTAL FOR  
ADULTS &  
FAMILIES:**

55  
programs  
1,339 in  
attendance



Mango the Opossum of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue



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

### 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