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

Dear Members of the Bill Memorial Library Community,

Thanks to your support, we are celebrating the close of another successful year. Our wide variety of programs for children, teens, adults, and families were fun and well-attended this year—thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to join us. We are particularly thankful for a special volunteer who has spent countless hours working on our building, tackling projects from roof to basement and garden shed to outdoor amphitheater. We have made improvements that make our public spaces more accessible, comfortable and more conducive to studying and reading. We hope you’ve noticed a difference.

The Board of Trustees, staff and I are taking time during this next year to examine what our next 5 years will look like. Our position as the smallest of the three Groton libraries has its challenges, but perhaps it also gives us freedom to pursue projects that are interesting and relevant to our community members while still providing excellent library services. We welcome your thoughts and ideas on how to make Bill Memorial the best it can be.

The staff and I look forward to seeing you soon, so please stop by for a visit.

Sincerely,

Wendy Connal, Library Director

Library Trustees
FY 2017-2018
Barbara Frucht
Naomi Otterness
Janet Downs
Robert Zuliani
Donald W. Byles
Lea Doran
Jane Giulini
Kathleen Harkins
Jackie Massett
Kenneth McBride
Christy McElroy
Mark R. Oefinger
Elizabeth Swindell
Barbara Tarbox

Board members Barbara Frucht, Elizabeth Swindell and Robert Zuliani serve ice cream to our Summer Reading participants.
2017-2018 Donors

As a small private library that is free and open to the public, we are dependent on public contributions for a portion of our annual budget. We are thankful to be honored by the financial support of so many in the community who value the programs and services the Bill Memorial Library provides.

**INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

Virginia Ager & Peter Fichera
Jo Ann Aldred
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Martin P. Artale, Jr.
Peggy Avery
Joan & Dennis Bacchiocchi
Charlotte Barnum
Dom & Sherry Bassi
Joseph & Susan Bennett
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Andrea & Tony Skiff
Mary-Jane & Peter Stanley
Duncan & Lolly Stoddard
Jim & Irma Streeter
Hans A. Stukenbrook
Elizabeth & Archie Swindell
Harold & Barbara Tarbox
Richard White
Grace N. Woodruff
Robert L. Zuliani

**BUSINESS DONORS**

Charter Oak Credit Union
Fidelity Charitable
Morgan Stanley
Paul’s Pasta Shop
Pfizer Foundation

**Memorial Donations**

Gifts made in honor of a loved one

Margaret “Peggy” Avery
Charlotte Barnum
Hali Keeler
Dale Dodd
Marjorie B. Jackson
Hali Keeler
Hugo Mars
Deborah A. Cluff
Kathleen McBride
Michael & Judith Pitcher
Michele Van Epps
B. Jean Connal

Library Founder Frederic Bill
2017-2018 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 65 people graciously donated their time and efforts to the library:

**Teens**
- Jannatul Anika
- Arfa Begum
- Blake Boston
- Bowen Zhao
- Vince Bucey
- Drusilla Burdo
- Aurora Clinton
- Clare Connal-
- Nicolaou
- Kayley Dioquino
- Rachael Finlayson
- Jeri Garrison
- Gianna Heckendorn
- Brendan Hird
- Natalia Lallis
- Nicole Lincoln
- Samantha Maiolo
- Beverly Mayberry
- Gideon McElroy

**Adults**
- Alicia Bauer
- Brian Bergman
- Scott Carle
- Amanda Carter
- Jane L. Chukay
- Donna & Frank Conahan
- Andreas Connal-Nicolaou
- Krystyna Demerest
- Marsha Dietrich
- Hon. Keith Hedrick
- Timothy C. Jackson
- Nicholas Johns
- Bernadette Kunkemoeller
- Peter Keramidas
- Emily Lavoie
- Ryan Litke
- Erica Lombardi
- Christy McElroy
- Molly McElroy
- Alyssa Moody
- Kate Nelson
- Dani Ricard
- Hannah Sherman
- Kathy Spindler
- Dane Stevenson
- Gail Yeo
- Robert Zuliani

2017-2018 Community Partners
- Art on Groton Bank
- Avery-Copp House
- City of Groton
- City of Groton Fire Department
- City of Groton Police Department
- Connecticut Humane Society
- Connecticut Humanities
- Girl Scout Troop 63205
- Groton Animal Foundation
- Groton Bank Day
- Groton Public Schools
- Groton Public Schools Summer Food Service Program
- Make Music Day
- Mysticaligraphers
- Riverfront Children’s Center
- SCRRRA
- Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition
- Thames River Heritage Park
- Trillium Garden Club
- Chelsea Groton Bank
- University of Connecticut (Erica Benvenuti)

The beautiful tree decorated for the library by the Mysticaligraphers
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 the Board of Trustees Fireworks parking, Art on Groton Bank, 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 in countless ways. 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
- Edible Books (in partnership with GPL Circle of Friends and Friends of MNL)
- Community Coloring

The new library keyboard made possible by the Chelsea Groton Foundation. We have live music in all of our story programs along with other musical events throughout the year.

Adult Coloring meets Monday evenings and is open to all. Supplies and snacks are provided.

2017-2018 Budget

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Income</td>
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<td>Fundraising/Other</td>
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<td>Municipal Funding</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Library Materials</td>
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<td>Technology, Supplies &amp; Programming</td>
<td>17,347.00</td>
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<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>Other Operating Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Grants Awarded FY 2017-2018**

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<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Groton Education Foundation</td>
<td>Mobile Computing Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary Club of Mystic</td>
<td>1000 Books Before Kindergarten</td>
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<td>ALA &amp; Gilder Lehman Institute of American History</td>
<td>Revisiting the Founding Era</td>
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<td>Walmart</td>
<td>Early Literacy Station</td>
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<td>Lions Club of Groton</td>
<td>Accessible Collections</td>
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<td>Chelsea Groton Foundation</td>
<td>Musical Story Time Enrichment</td>
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<td>Girls Who Code</td>
<td>Programming Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>YALSA</td>
<td>Top Ten Books Giveaway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groton Rotary Club</td>
<td>Early Literacy Station</td>
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TEEN PROGRAMS

Kate Bengtson coordinates all our teen programming - this year 13 monthly programs were held with an increase in attendance over last year. In addition, the library offered a Girls Who Code club, supported the Teen Advisory Board, provided outreach to Groton Public Middle Schools and High Schools, and held numerous programs for the Summer Reading program.

The “Creepy Crew” who brought the Haunted Library to life!

OUR MOST POPULAR MONTHLY PROGRAMS

- “How to Adult” workshop series, including “Healthy Eating on a Budget”, “Getting Your First Credit Card”, and “All About Cars & Car Safety”
- Frankentoys
- Harry Potter-themed Live Action Clue
- Pal-entine’s Day celebration – chocolate fountain and crafts

SUMMER READING 2018 – Libraries ROCK!

We partnered this year with Fitch High School to offer a chance for high school students to complete their summer reading assignment at the library. We were also awarded a set of Teen Top Ten nominated books by the American Library Association! We held 8 programs for grades 6-12 including:
- CD Scratch Art
- Candy Olympics
- Harry Potter Rock Band
- Drumming with Ed Leonard

Teen Advisory Board members (l-r) Hannah Ward, Samantha Maiolo, Jannatul Anika, Bowen Zhao (missing from photo - Arfa Begum). The TAB coordinated and executed the popular Haunted Library fundraiser.

2018 Summer Reading Donors
Aaron McBride – Industrial Light & Magic
Big Y Foods, Inc.
Book Barn
Children’s Museum of Niantic
Connecticut Tigers
CT Science Center
CT Sun
Foxwoods Resort Casino
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
Mystic Aquarium
Mystic Seaport
Panera Bread
Paul’s Pasta
Project Oceanology
The Valley Railroad Company
Water Wizz of Westerly
CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

All-ages Story Time is a huge hit! Weekly story programs were held throughout the year and were well-attended. We also held 14 special programs, many that featured live animals or live music! We continued our partnership with The Riverfront Children’s Center, hosting their classes for story times and implementing our new 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

OUR MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS

- Fall Safety Day with the City of Groton Fire Dept.
- Creepy Crafts
- Jeeper Creepers—Riverside Reptiles
- Marigolds for Mom (or Any Other Special Someone!)
- Pony Party
- Sing-Along Musical Story Time

SUMMER READING 2018 – Libraries ROCK!

We promoted our Rock & Roll Reading Board Game with the help of local rock musician Nicholas Johns. Nearly 100 kids participated in our game, and hundreds attended our 8 weekly Summer Reading special programs, including:

- Rock & Roll Summer School
- Ed Leonard’s Silly Song Sing Along
- Ed Popielarczyk’s Magical Moments Show
- DPNC Rock Cycle Ruckus
- Rock painting
- Animal Show on the Go
ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAMS
The Bill Memorial Library is committed to offering a variety of quality programming for all ages. Of the many events held at the library this year—educational, historical, musical, entertaining—there was something for everyone! Below is just a small sample.

Community Café - having a cup of coffee with members of the City of Groton Police Department and Mayor Keith Hedrick. Several coffee meet ups were held throughout the year.

BUNNY BONANZA!
420 adults & children attended this popular annual program!

Everyone was thrilled to meet and pet live bunnies, including baby bunnies!

OTHER PROGRAMS THIS YEAR -
Passport to Connecticut Libraries
Discovering the Wadsworth Atheneum
Women of the Revolution
Introduction to Streaming Services

SING ALONG WITH SANTA!
Festive carolers sang along to live music before meeting Santa Claus and enjoying cookies & hot cocoa.

Art on Groton Bank.

Make Music Day.