

ANNUAL REPORT

Stonington Free Library

2016-2017

Dear Friends of the Library,

I am delighted to report that we had another dynamic year at the Library, motivated by the extraordinary community participation we enjoyed in the development of our strategic plan. Numerous successful initiatives designed to extend our reach across the entire Town of Stonington were pursued. Belinda and Micayla continue to lead a remarkably talented and dedicated staff. Their collective commitment to kind service to our patrons continues to define the character of this treasured community resource.

We need your support now more than ever, as we endeavor to provide all the programs and services you have asked for and deserve.

Our energetic and talented Board and its committees with community volunteers have worked tirelessly this year to help make the Annual Appeal and the Mystery Dinner exceptionally successful once again.

Our comprehensive strategic plan, dynamic new website and stunning new visual identity are

all being shared across the next several months. We are eager to work with all those who care about the Library to implement our Plan's community based goals and initiatives.

Rather than passively await the rollout of our new Plan, the staff has been busy pursuing numerous initiatives, such as our branch library at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and moderating a book group at Masonicare at Mystic. They have taken the lead in reconvening and hosting the Stonington Nonprofit Roundtable which has fostered enthusiastic collaboration among our many community non-profit organizations. In a model, inter-organizational project the Library worked with the Stonington Village Improvement Association and Stonington High School to create two Little Free Libraries, one at Stonington Point and one at Mathews Park. These have been a huge hit since debuting several weeks ago!

The past year has featured wonderful collaboration and communication with those who care about the Library and our community. We surveyed our patrons, partners, peers and staff gaining critical feedback on our areas of strength and opportunities for growth. Thank you for helping shape the future of your Library. We need your support now more than ever, as we endeavor to provide all the programs and services you have asked for and deserve. We look forward to implementing our strategic plan utilizing the devotion of our staff, the dedication of our Board and the loyalty of many friends in a collective effort to strengthen this Library we all love.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Kepple
President of the Board of Trustees of the Stonington Free Library



STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016-2017

Nicholas Kepple *President*
Scott Muller *Vice President*
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STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY KEY STAFF

Belinda de Kay *Executive Director*
director@stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Micayla Hall *Assistant Director*
micaylahall@stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Maris G. Frey *Youth Services Director*
marisfrey@stoningtonfreelibrary.org

Melissa Floyd *Development Coordinator*
development@stoningtonfreelibrary.org

860-535-0658 *Phone*
860-535-3945 *Fax*

stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org *Email*

www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org *Website*

Mailing Address
PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378

Stonington Free Library
20 High Street, Stonington, CT

YOUTH SERVICES 2016 – 2017

*Bad libraries build collections.
Good libraries build services.
Great libraries build communities.*
-R. David Lankes

Each year presents new possibilities to build community and we strive to offer programs that bring our community together in different, exciting ways. We collaborated with Westerly Library this year with ONE FAMILY – ONE BOOK and chose Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach. We offered read alouds at the libraries and also in our afterschool Outreach programs at both Deans Mill and West Vine Street schools. The United Theatre hosted a screening of the movie as a final celebration, along with themed treats provided by Wakin' Up Waggin'. All the children attending received their own copy of a Roald Dahl book. The project was made possible through the generosity of Deborah and Chuck Royce, along with the community minded spirit of Simon Holt of the United Theatre. Our gratitude is boundless.

The combined Youth Services (children and teens) offered 316 programs this past year with 7,247 people in attendance. We constantly fine tune our offerings, adding new opportunities and refining others to appeal to our patrons. We will experiment with some new times in the upcoming year, which will be possible with our new hours beginning in August.

A Summer Reading Program grant from a family foundation again enabled us to bring programming to summer camps in our community, along with free books for the campers to bring home. We were also fortunate to receive a Summer Reading Sponsorship from McQuade's Marketplace which was very helpful. We include in this report a list of supporters; we rely on their generosity to make our programs happen. We are pleased to report higher reading rates among our 670 readers this summer, with participation rates between 78% - 84% for all age groups. This is very significant, as the barometer for deeming a reading program successful is in the 33% range. Nice job and congratulations to all our summer readers!

Our Read and Feed Collaboration with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center enjoyed another successful summer. The children helped others in our community by donating over 520 canned and dry goods to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

Our annual Children's Opera found a new date during our Summer Reading Program and although attendance was low this year, we are working on possible remedies. Our thanks go out again to our generous opera benefactor.

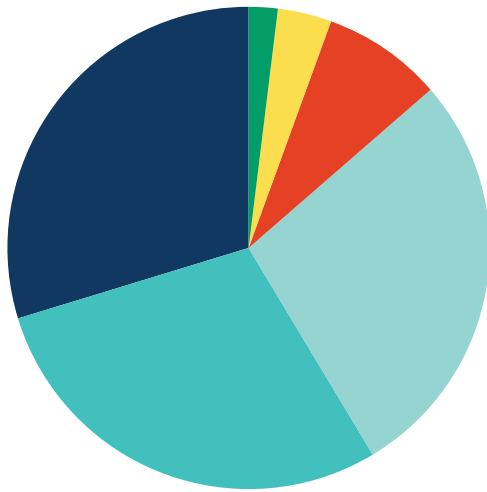


ANNUAL BUDGET

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, the Stonington Free Library received a total of \$593,228 in income, an increase of 5% over the previous year. Annual Appeal results were in line with budget and consistent with the prior year. Municipal funding was essentially flat, while higher draws on the Library's endowment funds coupled with the receipt of restricted grants for capital purposes accounted for the growth in income.

SOURCES OF FUNDS ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

Operating Income = \$593,228



Annual Appeal.....	\$176,038
Municipal Funding	\$171,185
Endowment Draw	\$164,265
Other Contributions.....	\$47,279
Restricted Grants *	\$22,500
Service Fees	\$11,961

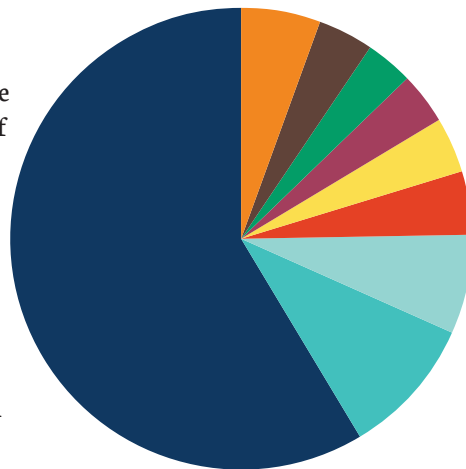
* Reflects contributions that are restricted by the donor for future capital spending for specific purposes, and thus not available to fund ongoing operating expenses.

Uses of funds for the 16/17 fiscal year consisted of \$556,084 in operating expenses (before depreciation) plus \$34,415 in capital spending, for a total of \$590,499.

TOTAL SPENDING CAN BE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

Operating Expenses = \$590,499

As we heard loud and clear from survey responses and focus groups, at the Stonington Free Library our staff is truly our greatest asset! And as shown in the table above, personnel costs form the majority of the Library's annual spending. Operating costs for the 2016/17 fiscal year grew by 3.7% over the previous year due primarily to the implementation of long-deferred wage adjustments along with increased benefit costs. Despite this year over year increase, however, operating expenses came in approximately \$20,000 lower than budget for the year.



Personnel Costs.....	\$346,109
Library Programs & Material	\$55,993
Insurance & Professional Fees.....	\$41,132
Electronic Access & Technology.....	\$26,536
Strategic Planning	\$22,421
Property & Building Maintenance	\$22,084
Utilities	\$18,938
Other.....	\$22,871
Capital Spending	\$34,415



I see the library as a hub for the community; a place to share information, a place to connect with the local and global community, a place where there are no borders or boundaries.





REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

This Report of Contributions is published annually by the Stonington Free Library. It is a listing of all donors to the Library during the past fiscal year - July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Gifts are received through the Annual Appeal, the Mystery Dinner, or made in memory of or in honor of members of our Stonington community. Recognition is also given to the members of the Babcock - Phelps Society and to the people who volunteer their time. Without a variety of contributions from the members of our community our Library could not provide the services that are a signature of a dynamic and thoughtful community.

THE PEDIMENT SOCIETY

The Pediment Society recognizes those donors who give \$500 or more to the Annual Appeal. Annual Appeal gifts support the annual operating budget and account for nearly forty percent of the Library's income. Leadership giving is the cornerstone of the Annual Appeal.

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

The James P. Verhalen Family Foundation, Inc.
Wimpfheimer Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Barbara and Marc Ginsberg
Priscilla and Charles Hodges Memorial Fund
Kitchings Foundation
Caroline and Scott Muller
Alexander Roepers
Raymond Uzan

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Frances Ashley
Michael and Dudley Del Balso
Dime Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Dixon
Phyllis Weaver and Gary Gerstein
William Griffin
Leckerling, Ladwig & Leamon, LLC
Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation
Diana and Archibald Leslie
Susan and Harry Martin
Mystic River Consulting

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Pamela Brewster
Beth and Sam Chapin

Charles T. Clark
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Merrily and Michael Connery
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Denise and Richard Easton
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Peyton Horne
Susan Surova and Edward Janusz
Katherine and Timothy Love
McQuade's Marketplace
Marguerite and Thomas Moore
Anna Maria and Wright Palmer
Cheryl and David Purvis
Deborah Dodds and Gregory Smith
Switz Real Estate Associates, Inc.
William Blunt White
C. Lawson Willard
Karen and James Wittliff
Katherine Yates

\$500 - \$999

Binti and John Ackley
George A. Avery
Patience and Alan Banister
Bonnie and Carl Banks
Lynn and Jeffrey Callahan
Deborah and Peter Castle
Jane and Donald Charbonnier
Kaylan Randolph and
Alejandro Cifuentes

Hobby and Matthew Coudert
Harriet and Tony Crane
Deborah and Thomas Downie
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Geraldine Nager Griffin
William Robert Griffith
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Mary and James Kelley
Anna and Kyle Klewin
Carol Scheman and David Korn
Saren Langmann
Ann Lobdell
Spike Lobdell
Marie Claire Ged and Daniel Mallett
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Beverly and Geoffrey Phillips
Joan Richards and James Quinn
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Margaret Luchars Richards
Jane and William Roderick
Charles Royce
Ann Gray and James Royle
Alice and Joseph Sasso
Carol and Edward Sauers
Sylvia Lynch and Michael Schefers
Kate and Arnold Schmeidler
David M. Smith
SNS Electric / Pete and
Nicole Stajouhar
Somewhere In Time
Brenda and George Sylvestre
Christine and John Turrentine
Beth Walker
Alejandra and Josh Welch
Georgia and Eugene York

ANNUAL APPEAL

\$250 - \$499

Patty and Tom Adams
 Tina and Paul Allaire
 Beth Black and Randall Bean
 Elaine and Richard Berman
 Ann and Alan Blanchard
 Jenny Dixon and John Boone
 Carmel and Gus Bourneuf
 Elizabeth and James Boylan
 Patricia Solga and Mitchell Brody
 Josephine R. Bump
 Dorrit and Tom Castle
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 Cornelia Dickinson
 Marion and Steven Dodd
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 Poor Morgan
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 Daniel Terrell
 Elizabeth and Christopher Thorp
 Peggy and Bart Voorsanger
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 Sally and Clement Wood

\$100 - \$249

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 Sheila and Luis Alonso
 Judith R. Bachmann
 Charles T. Baker
 Carole and Brian Barnard
 Anne Bartholet
 Natalie and Chauncey Bartholet
 Linda and Joseph Basile
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 Anne and Alan Bentz
 Maryann Bessette

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 Judy Blitman
 Arindam and Gopa Bose
 Bergin O'Malley and David Boyle
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 Kay and Dick Daniele
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 Meredith B. Fischer
 Sherry and Alfred Fritzsche
 Lois and Bob Geary
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 Koko and Richard Gildersleeve
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 Kathryn Bowling Graham
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 Timothy Hogen
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 Suzanne Kissell
 Susan Knox

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 Joell Kunath
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 Bobette McCracken
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 Barbara and James Murphy
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 Jennifer O'Brien
 Theresa Maire Pantani
 Robert Pittaway
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 Ann and Jim Robins
 Katherine H. Robinson
 Mr. and Mrs. A. William Rutherford
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 Noreen and Joseph Selinger
 Janet and David Shlaes
 Heidi and Rob Simmons
 Chris and J.J. Sinton
 Rosanne Simborski and Michael Smyle
 Martha Snyder

ANNUAL APPEAL CONTINUED \$100 - \$249

Irene Gonin and Joseph Spaulding
Donna and William C. Stamm
Patricia Stamm
Carla and Rowland Stebbins
Alexandra Stoddard and Peter Brown
Stonington Garden Club
Diane and William Swan
Kathryn Taylor
Mary Thacher
Rebecca Noreen and Jonathan Towne
Lynn and Thomas Tsagarakis
Barbara and William Tufts
Mary and Frank Vargas
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Katherine White
Kirby and Joseph Williams
Barbara and Roy Wilson
Barbara Gray-Winslow and Harry Winslow
Pamela Profit Wohltman
Ellen and Andrew Wormser
Patricia and Frederick Ziegler

ANNUAL APPEAL – ALL OTHER GIFTS

Douglas Ackerman
Margaret and Alan Aleia
Shirley and Denzel Andrews
Anonymous
Paula A. Atwood
J.E. Aulisi
Harriet and Dick Barry
Karen Barthelson
Judith Beisler
Dawn Belanger
Elaine P. Belknap
Marianna Wilcox and Bertrand Bell
Cynthia and Daniel Benfield
Rachel and Joseph Benin
Betsey and Bruce Biddle
Douglass Bjorn
Jane and Neal Bobruff
Mary Fort Boyle
Sandra and Thomas Bragdon
Sylvia and Meredith Brown
MJ and Alan Brush
Ayo Bryant

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Carol Barnes and Bill Craig
Elizabeth Croteau
Elizabeth and Curtis Danforth
Sandra and Gary Davis
Belinda and Tertius de Kay
Michele Jones and John Delmhorst
Yolanda and Paul Desy
Eva Hantman and Dean DiMaggio
Linda and William Dohrmann
Joan M. Downes
Monika and John Dreslin
Martin Duke
Nancy Dunne
Marcia and David Erskine
Marcia and Jack Fix
Melissa Floyd
Maris and Kenneth Frey
Marilyn Graham
Carol Granato
Terry and Sandy Grimes
Priscilla Griscom
Robert Halperin
Eric Hansen
Barbara Petty Heuer
Barbara and Harry Higgins
Norma and Robert Hummerstone
Robert Johnson
Mary-Louise Knapp
Ellen and Michael Knizeski
Maria and Andrew Kowal
Norman S. Krasner
G.F. Lane
Claudia and Kevin Laxar
Caren and David Lazar
Antoinette and Richard Ledzian
Pamela and David Leeming
Diane and Richard Lewin
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Lois Lawrence and Albert Lochiatto
Sarah Stifler Lucas
Patricia and David Ludwig
Dixie Lufbery
Sheila Lyons
Patricia Fritzsche and Theodore Malek
Henrietta T. Mayer
Bodil and Harry Meyer, Jr.
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Marisol and Jim Moody

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Denise Pierson
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Nancy and Frederick Richartz
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Thomas Rolfe
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Carol C. Ruffo
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Saint Mary Frances Circle
Cheryl and Arthur Saxton
Lee Ann and Steven Schoenecker
Lynn Schroder
Gayle and Gary Schulte
Constance and John Seremet
Linda and Rick Skehan
Patricia Small
Caroline Souter
Martha and L.E. Sproul
Stonington Veterinary Hospital
Susan and Jeffrey Stritar
Patricia and Richard Surprenant
Suzanne and Timothy Tyler
Lissa van Dyke
Linda and Pieter Visscher
Barbara Van De Vusse
Carol Breslin and Lincoln Watkins
Harriet L. Watsky
Meg Wilhelms
Kathy Williams
Patricia Reardon and Eugene Winchester
Jillian and John Woodilla



*Extremely valuable part of the community.
Friendly place where I feel welcome and
somewhere I look forward to visiting
each week.*



MYSTERY DINNER

The Mystery Dinner brings together members of the community for the benefit of the Stonington Free Library. Our 9th annual event, held on April 22nd, was once again sold out, netting over \$13,000 for the Library Annual Fund and another \$5300 for new laptops and a wireless printer through Giving Tree donations made during the cocktail hour.

This year's theme, *An Evening at Walden*, celebrated the 200th birthday of Henry David Thoreau as well as Earth Day. Guests strolled up a forest-like walkway into the Library that was transformed into Walden Pond complete with wildlife, period implements and accessories, and inspirational quotes from Thoreau. After sampling old New England themed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, guests dispersed to 19 host homes for lively conversation and a delicious dinner.

The Library Board wishes to extend a very special thank you to the hardworking committee led by Chairs Allegra Griffiths, Elizabeth Leamon and Alejandra Welch. We are grateful to Russ Burgess and Clare Sheridan of *Charles Schwab - Mystic* for sponsoring our cocktail hour. We also thank *Adam's Garden of Eden*, *Cask n' Keg*, *The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center*, and *Barbara Heuer* for their donations to the event. Finally, heartfelt thanks to the dinner hosts who graciously opened their homes and made the evening a lovely experience for their guests and a successful fundraising event for the Library.

COMMITTEE

Chairs

Allegra Griffiths
Elizabeth Leamon
Alejandra Welch

Committee

Ann Buffum
Denise Collins
Nan Danforth
Belinda de Kay
Anne Fix
Melissa Floyd
Barbara Ginsberg
Sibby Lynch
Clare Sheridan
Chris Turrentine

HOSTS

Beth Black & Randall Bean
Beth & Sam Chapin
Harriet & Tony Crane
Barbara & Christopher Dixon
Alice & John Groton, III
Mary Elliot Haders
with Trish & Brandon Watson
Julia & Paul Leeming
Spike Lobdell
Virginia & Robert Montgomery
Caroline & Scott Muller
Geraldine Nager Griffin
with Alejandra & Josh Welch
Alexandra & Gerrit Nicholas
Deborah Norman
Joyce & Francis Pandolfi
Alexa & Dan Pearson
Cheryl & David Purvis
Cynthia Elliot & Douglass Rice
Ruth Saunders & Jonathan White



ATTENDEES & SUPPORTERS

Ann & Michael Adair
John Adams
Sally & Damon Ball
Carole & Brian Barnard
Anne Bartholet
Lisa Tepper Bates & Scott Bates
Diana & Ted Beck
Heather & Stephen Bessette
Anne Rivers & David Black
Jenny Dixon & John Boone

Anne Fix & Kevin Bowdler
Elizabeth Bowman
Meg Raftis & Stillman Brown
Josephine R. Bump
Karin Whiting Burgess & Russell Burgess
Holland & Robert Burt
Joanne & Hugh Caldara
Lynn & Jeff Callahan
Jill Corr & Larry Caruso
Karen & Lee Cashman
Susie Clapp

Lois & Richard Cole
 Denise & Jonathan Collins
 Merrily & Michael Connery
 Hobby & Matthew Coudert
 Cheryl & Charles Danis
 Dudley & Michael Del Balso
 Cornelia Dickinson
 Linda & William Dohrmann
 Judith duPont
 Lori & David Dyer
 Mark Renfrow & James Eckerle
 Vivie von Walstrom &
 Richard Farmer
 Clare Sheridan & Jim Fayal
 Marcia & Jack Fix
 Patricia & William Follett
 Barbara & Marc Ginsberg
 Mary Liz James & John Glenn
 Brenda Pelt Gourd &
 Henri Gourd
 Kathryn Bowling Graham
 Allegra & Brian Griffiths
 Beth & Charles Harding
 Vera Harsh
 Susan & Brad Hart
 Charlie Hatton
 Barbara Petty Heuer

Timothy Hogen
 Elizabeth Hopkins
 Pam Johnstone
 Jocelyn Kepple
 Nicholas Kepple
 Rebekah Kepple
 Deborah Kotchen
 Michelle & Stephen Kutz
 Saren Langmann
 Beth & John Leamon
 David & Pamela Leeming
 Susan & Jan Lindberg
 Ann Lobdell
 Susan & Harry Martin
 Sally McBee
 Karen McGee
 Erica Lindberg Gourd &
 Thomas Mitchell
 Virginia & Robert
 Montgomery
 Laura & Tom Moran
 Rita Nason
 Shelia Rock & Lincoln Norton
 Moira & Cormac O'Malley
 Joan & Tim O'Neill
 Elizabeth Osha
 Laura Paige

Anna Maria & Wright Palmer
 Jane & Anthony Pellegrini
 Polly Spring & Breck Perkins
 Beverly & Geoffrey Phillips
 Marcia Woolworth Porter
 David Rathbun
 Betsey & Stone Roberts
 Lori Robishaw
 Nancy Rupert & Chris Storer
 Candy & Tom Sanford
 Charles Schwab - Mystic
 Stuart JD Schwartzstein
 Sibby Lynch & Michael Schefers
 Sloan & Heather
 Sheridan-Thomas
 Deborah Dodds & Gregory Smith
 Kathleen & Larry Snoddon
 Christine & John Turrentine
 Julia van Dyke
 Alan & Janet Vaskas
 William Blunt White
 Sage Williams
 Sally & Clement Wood
 Mark Wunderlich
 Georgia & Eugene York
 James Quinn & Chris Zhang

GIVING TREE DONORS

Sally & Damon Ball
 Carole & Brian Barnard
 Lisa Tepper Bates & Scott Bates
 Diana & Ted Beck
 Jenny Dixon & John Boone
 Anne Fix & Kevin Bowdler
 Meg Raftis & Stillman Brown
 Josephine R. Bump
 Joanne & Hugh Caldara
 Lynn & Jeffrey Callahan
 Karen & Lee Cashman
 Lois & Richard Cole
 Denise & Jonathan Collins
 Merrily & Michael Connery
 Hobby & Matthew Coudert
 Cheryl & Charles Danis
 Dudley & Michael Del Balso
 Linda & William Dohrmann
 Lori & David Dyer
 Vivie von Walstrom &
 Richard Farmer
 Marcia & Jack Fix
 Patricia & William Follett
 Brenda Pelt Gourd &
 Henri Gourd
 Allegra & Brian Griffiths
 Beth & Charles Harding
 Susan & Brad Hart
 Barbara Petty Heuer
 Timothy Hogen
 Mary Liz James & John Glenn
 Saren Langmann
 Beth & John Leamon
 Ann Lobdell
 Susan & Harry Martin
 Karen McGee
 Laura & Thomas Moran
 Joan & Tim O'Neill
 Polly Spring & Breck Perkins
 Poor Morgan
 James Eckerle & Mark Renfrow
 Betsey & Stone Roberts
 Nancy Rupert
 Candy & Tom Sanford
 Sibby Lynch & Michael Schefers
 Sloan & Heather
 Sheridan-Thomas
 Deborah Dodds &
 Gregory Smith
 Larry & Kathleen Snoddon
 Christine & John Turrentine
 Janet & Alan Vaskas
 Sage & Thomas Williams
 Mark Wunderlich

LECTURE SERIES

The Library hosted two lecture series during the year
 - *Thoughtful Thursdays* and the *Sunday Evening Lecture*.
 Listed below are the guest speakers for these events.

Thoughtful Thursdays

Jean Baur
 Nick Bellantoni
 Kathy Rainer & Tricky Wolfes

Sunday Evening Lectures

Laura Jackson	
Lily King	
Stone Roberts	
Ray Uzanis	
Mark Wunderlich*	

* James Merrill House Writer-in-Residence

Our gratitude to Bruce Ware Allen for his talk as part of the CT
 Author Trail. Thanks also to Arthur Murray Niantic for their
 interactive dance demonstration and class.

A special thank you to our CORPORATE SPONSORS

GW&K INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT



A SPECIAL THANK YOU . . .

to the following businesses and
 organizations who have contributed
 to the Annual Appeal:

Avena & Kepple, LLC
 Battle of Stonington 5K Road Race
 Dime Bank
 GW&K Investments
 The Hungry Palette
 Leckerling, Ladwig & Leamon, LLC
 Poor Morgan
 Quality Printers
 Saltwater Farm Vineyard
 SNS Electric
 Somewhere in Time
 St. Frances Mary Circle
 Stonington Garden Club
 Stonington Veterinary Hospital
 Switz Real Estate
 Waterford Hotel Group

GIFTS FOR YOUTH SERVICES

The following businesses, organizations and individuals have made monetary or in-kind donations to help fund programs and services for children and teens throughout the year. Many of our programs could not happen without their generous support.

Bank Square Books
Robert Baum
Bess Eaton Donuts
Big Y
BJ's Wholesale Club
Andy Brown
Brown/Stoddard Grandchildren
Lemonade Stand
Compass Rose
Dairy Queen
Fauerbach Family
Fun Company
Patricia Reilly Giff

Home Depot
Indulge
Kelly Family
Noreen Kepple
Anna and Kyle Klewin
Korinek Family
Leslie Buck Memorial Fund
Lis Bake Shop
McQuade's Marketplace
Mel's Downtown Creamery
Moore Family
Regan Morse
Mystic Luxury Cinemas

Nigrelli Jewelers
Obuchowski Family
Deborah and Chuck Royce
Stonington Community Center
Stonington Pizza Palace
Stop & Shop
Subway Mystic
Target
Terra Firma Farm
Tom's Newstand
Verhalen Family Foundation
Vesta Bakery
WalMart

THANKS FOR BEING LIBRARY MODELS!

Thank you to everyone who set aside their time to take part in our photography day this May. The photos came out wonderfully and will be used on our new website and communication materials.

VOLUNTEERS

John Adams
CJ Alexander
Hazel Allik
Susan Ayers
Sally Ball
Jean Baur
Martha Bellet
Vanessa Benjamin
Sarah Berger
Madeline Bosse
Noah Bosse
Sara Boudreaux
Nora Brannegan
Josephine R. Bump
Kaiden Burner
Giuliana Caradimos
Donald Charbonnier
Kali Cheetham
Matthew Cheetham
Kathy Conger
Rory Contin
Barbara Corbeil
Nan Danforth
Tertius de Kay
Haley Delmonaco
Piper Doyle
Bruce Edwards
Nicholas Ferreira
Elizabeth Freeman
Audrey Fuller
Olivia Fuller

Marc Ginsberg
Robert Guarino
Athena Gutierrez
Judith Hanratty
Charles Harding
James Harty
Lillian Kelleher
Noreen Kepple
Kenneth Knott
Susan Knox
Femke Kovoov
Norman Krasner
Rick Larkin
Pamela Leeming
Josh Lord
John Malmros
Amanda Mann
Alexander Matthews
Angel McClurg
Sandy McGugan
Brenna McNeil
Celia Moffitt
Chloe Morehouse
Bryn Morgan
Emma Morrison
Lucas Morrison
William Morrison
Olivia Murphy
Sarah Starr Murphy
Grace Murray
Molly Neale
Christine Nickerson

Matthew Nowak
Selena Pacheco
Carly Parson
Zachary Pasquin
Diya Patel
Isla Pearson
William Quell
Paolo Rayonese
Madison Rea
Anne Richards

Keaton Sanborn
Caroline Sanford
Colin Sheehan
Clare Sheridan
Sharon Sisitzky
Meghan Steele
Kayla Taylor
Patricia Tuccchio
Christine Turrentine
Tess Vickerman

Jason Vincent
Vivie von Walstrom
Kathy Weinberger
Judy Westwood
Meg Wilhelms
Chase Williams
Owen Williams
Sage Williams
Gail Woodrow

THANKS FOR YOUR INPUT!

We extend our gratitude to the 600+ community members who participated in our survey and focus groups last summer. Your response and support was overwhelming and we are very grateful. We are already working to implement new ideas and changes based on community feedback. Thank you again for sharing what you value about our library and what you would like to see happen in the future.



ANNUAL CIRCULATION AND PROGRAMMING

OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Expanding our reach beyond our physical walls and collaborating with other organizations has been our focus this past year and will continue in the years to come. Several new outreach initiatives have been launched and all have been met with much excitement, enthusiasm and participation.

One new outreach effort is a branch at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, which started the end of January. Our PNC branch is open two Wednesdays a month from 10 to 11:30 and is staffed by our volunteer librarians. As of the end of June it has served 81 people who checked out 115 items. We plan to add additional dates and times to the branch this Fall.

We are also collaborating with Masonicare at Mystic to provide outreach programs to its residents. Masonicare residents enjoy a monthly book group, which is facilitated by a Library staff member. The Library also provides copies of the monthly book group selection. Additionally, Masonicare provides transportation to its residents for a monthly visit to the Library.

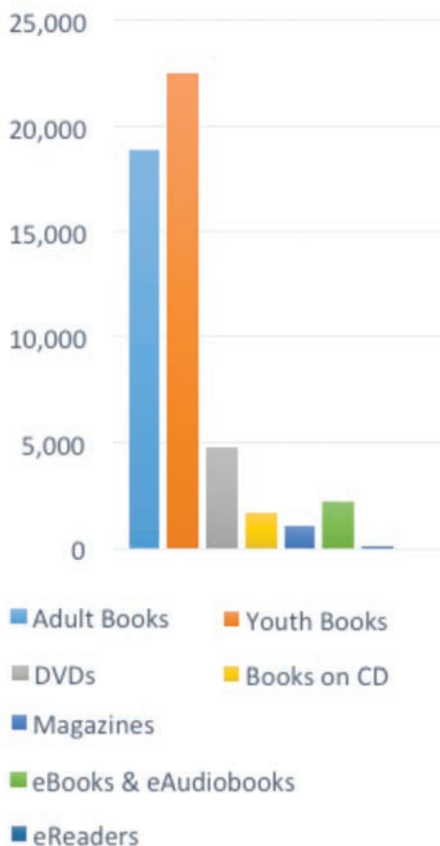
Yet another initiative is the revival of a round table gathering of all the non-profit organizations in the Town of Stonington. The purpose of this group is to share information, pool resources and to promote collaboration. There are currently 27 organizations actively participating in the round table gatherings.

Don't forget to check out the Little Free Libraries at Mathews Park and Stonington Point. They were installed in July through a collaboration between the Library, the Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA) and Stonington High School. The project was funded by the SVIA. The Stonington High School shop class, led by Stephen Beale, constructed the libraries. Library volunteers will keep them well stocked with books.

And when you visit the Library enjoy our expanded new book area and reading corner and use one of our new laptops - all thanks to the generous response to the Giving Tree at our Mystery Dinner.



CIRCULATION AND ADULT PROGRAMMING



While our overall circulation of physical materials is down slightly from last year, our digital material circulation, number of programs, program attendance and new initiatives increased significantly. The Library's eReader lending program continues to be successful with a 61% increase in circulation over last year. eBook and eAudiobook checkouts grew 59% over the previous year. In total our 3,525 active card holders borrowed 51,006 materials.

Thanks to the generosity of a Library supporter, we are now able to keep an accurate count of annual visits through the funding and installation of a door counter last May. We are happy to report that 69,107 people stepped through our doors this past year. As always, our friendly and knowledgeable librarians provided a warm welcome to all who stopped in!

We continue to increase the number of adult programs we offer. Adults enjoyed 13 more programs this year for a total of 47, which drew 1,278 participants. Part of this increase is due to a new and well attended monthly book group. The group began in January and meets the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm at the Library.

Our adult summer reading program was met with enthusiastic participation. Our weekly and grand prize drawings received 218 entries. 21 winners were chosen over the summer to choose from a variety of prizes in our display, while one lucky grand prize winner received a Kindle Fire.

This coming year we will continue to expand our outreach, collaboration and programming initiatives. We will offer extended week night hours beginning the end of August, which was the top request from our community survey and focus groups last summer. Yet another community request nearing completion is a brand new website set to launch by the end of August. As always, we will continue to respond to the community's feedback, interests and needs. Let us know how we are doing and we hope to see you soon!

GRANTS AWARDED TO THE STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

Each year we submit proposals to foundations and grant making organizations to either enhance existing programs and services or to launch new ones. We are grateful to the support we received last year from the following grantors.

*The Christopher & Dana Reeves Foundation
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut
Mystic Rotary Club
Mystic Woman's Club*

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

The following companies have matched the charitable contributions their employees have made to the Stonington Free Library.

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union	<i>Ayo Bryant Jennifer and Mark Raymond Irene Gonin and Joseph Spaulding Daniel Terrell Lynn Schroder Jane Roderick C. Lawson Willard Jane Charbonnier Penelope Duckham Stephane Caron Monika Dreslin Nancy Jankovich Michael Mirsky Jeffrey Stritar Margaret Wilhelms</i>
Cigna Foundation	
Eileen Fisher	
ExxonMobil Foundation	
IBM	
Henry J. Kaiser Foundation	
Pfizer	

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Kendrick Anderson
*Susan Battles
Portuguese Holy Ghost Society
Julia and Henry Toulmin*

Dorothy Avery
George Avery

Emory Ayers
Susan Ayers

Shirley Beal
*Leonard Armato
Elaine and Richard Berman
Gigi and David Ditz
Marcia and Jack Fix
Ann and Peter Freeman
Stephen Wade Garard
Koko and Richard Gildersleeve
Hellen Family
Alice Houston and Arthur Higbee
Franny Kain
Mary-Louise Knapp
Betty and John MacPhee*

*Valentina Marchenkoff
Ellie Kain McCully
Rita T. Nason
Betty Richards
Lisa Sloan
Martha Snyder
Mary Thacher
USA Volleyball
Albert J. Vivas
Sandra L. Vivas
The WACCos*

Joseph Burchenal
Joan R. Burchenal

David Clapp
Mary Beth Anzovino

Theresa Ellis
*Eva Hantman and Dean DiMaggio
East Lyme Public Library –
Staff Sunshine Fund
Jean and Steven Lachance
Nanci and David Liscinsky*

*Martha and Stephen Moss
Mary and Donald Roy
Mindy and Joe Whitehouse*

Emily Lynch
KSM Hoskins Smith

Colin Revill
*Lynn and Jeffrey Callahan
Belinda and Tertius de Kay
Ann and Peter Freeman
Maria Ksiezopolska
Amanda Lindberg
Dorothea B. Moore
Ruth R. Palmer*

Jane E. Richmond
Barbara and Richard Richmond

Charles Willis
Norma S. Paradis

Donald Wimpfheimer
*The Wimpfheimer Foundation –
James Wimpfheimer and
Joni Whitehouse*

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Often we collaborate with other organizations to bring programs to the community. We thank them for helping to foster a spirit of cooperation and sharing in our mission.

*The Elms Retirement Residence
James Merrill House
C.B. Jennings Dual Language
& International Elementary Magnet School
La Grua Center
Look it Up Program
Leslie Buck Memorial Fund
Mystic Rotary Club
Rotary Club of the Stoningtons
Masonicare at Mystic
Mystic Noank Library
Ocean Community YMCA
Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
Pine Point School
St. Michael's School
Stonington Borough Merchants Association
Stonington Community Center
Stonington High School
Stonington Historical Society
Stonington Human Services
Stonington Garden Club
Stonington Non-Profit Roundtable
Stonington Public Schools
Stonington Village Improvement Association
United Theatre and Simon Holt
Wakin' Up Waggin'
Westerly Library*

BABCOCK PHELPS SOCIETY

The Babcock-Phelps Society, named for the two founding donors of the Library building, recognizes those individuals who have chosen to remember the Stonington Free Library in their wills or other estate planning documents. Just as the Babcock and Phelps families thought of generations to come when building the Library, members of the Babcock-Phelps Society are also helping to ensure the future of the Stonington Free Library.

John Michael Bass*
Jean Blanchet*
Mrs. Helen Brewster*
Peter Megargee Brown*
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore N. Danforth, Jr.
Inger McCabe Elliot
Elizabeth and Charles Harding
Priscilla F. Hodges*
Jean M. Jones
Cynthia Crawford Lichtenstein

Maria McVitty*
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic C. Paffard, Jr.*
Joyce and Francis P. Pandolfi
Santo Puglisi*
Elizabeth Holliday Ramsey*
Carol and Edward Sauers
Owen Sherry*
Robert and Heidi Simmons
Anne T. Stevens*
Judith and Andrew Westwood

If you have already made a provision in your estate planning for the Stonington Free Library, please let us know so that we can recognize your generosity.

*Indicates deceased



*Extremely valuable part of the community.
Friendly place where I feel welcome and somewhere
I look forward to visiting each week.*



MISSION STATEMENT

The Stonington Free Library seeks to enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas and people together.

Adopted June, 2017 by the Board of Trustees

The list of donors contained in this Report represents those who gave between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. We checked and rechecked in order to create an accurate list. If your name is missing or spelled incorrectly please contact the Library (860-535-0658). We want to know. Our donors are very important to us and we want to get it right.