



Artwork by Sarah Downie



**STONINGTON
FREE LIBRARY**

**2024 - 2025
ANNUAL
REPORT**

FROM THE DIRECTOR



This past year the Library placed a great deal of emphasis on stewardship. Stewardship of our patrons, our supporters, our community partners, our staff, our volunteers, our building, our programs, our services, and more. We strive to actively and purposefully serve the community today while ensuring that the Library is here for many generations to come.

A key component of ensuring the success of the Library for future generations is financial stewardship. Thanks to our generous supporters, we had another very successful fundraising year. We exceeded our largest Annual Appeal goal to date and received generous contributions from members of our Babcock-Phelps Society. The Babcock-Phelps Society is named for the Library's two earliest benefactors and recognizes those who have chosen to remember the Library in their estate planning documents. We recently received generous bequests from the estates of Beth and Charles Harding, Inger McCabe Elliott, and Cynthia Crawford

Lichtenstein. These contributions were invested in the Library's endowment to continue its growth and in turn our financial sustainability. If you have placed the Library in your will, please reach out so that we can both thank and recognize you.

I must also recognize the generous donations we continue to receive from the community through the donation jar at Tom's News Stand in the Borough. Tom Rezendes has been directing donations to the Library since 2019. This year alone he raised over \$6,000 for children's programs and services. We are grateful for the kindness and support of everyone who placed their change or a few dollars in Tom's donation jar. It truly adds up and makes a real difference for children in the community. Thank you Tom for your generosity and love of the Library!

In terms of stewarding our historic building, we completed a full structural review and performed the recommended masonry work for future preservation. We were also able to make significant improvements to our network infrastructure, equipment, and Wi-Fi speeds thanks to a \$13,000 grant from the CT State Library. Fast, reliable Wi-Fi is a necessity in today's world and we are always looking for ways to increase digital access.

Thanks to the ingenuity of our staff and volunteers we continued to expand our free programs and services for all ages. Did you know that we offer tech help and a read aloud program to residents at Masonicare? A book group for members of New Heights in Pawcatuck? A monthly adult crafting program on the weekend? Have you tried our new SFL app? You will find out about these offerings and more in the programs and services section of this report.

I am delighted to report that our key service statistics have increased once again year over year. Physical circulation is up 6%, digital circulation

increased by 65%, library cardholders increased by 9%, program attendance rose 22% and foot traffic is up 11%. This is a nice indication that our thoughtful stewardship is making a difference.

I hope that in whatever way you connected with the Library this year, you felt it was a warm, welcoming, and enriching experience thanks to our friendly and dedicated staff and volunteers. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Micayla

Micayla Hall
Library Director

“You are a wonderful part of our community”

- Adult SFL patron



Stonington Borough 4th of July Parade

Our mission is to enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas, and people together.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is with pride and sadness that I write my last President's report. The Library is the most functioning non-profit I have been involved with and it's been a pleasure to serve on its Board of Directors. The credit for this goes to many people. I was the lucky beneficiary of being in the right place at the right time. Previous Board Presidents Nick Kepple, Allegra Griffiths, and Denise Easton steered the Library through a Strategic Plan that was completed in 2017. That plan is still relevant today and has been our north star each year as we assess our progress and set new goals for the coming year. The strategic plan identified three broad areas of focus (1) community engagement and outreach (2) renovate and re-imagine the spaces in the Library and (3) financial sustainability.

I am very proud of the progress we have made towards these goals. We provide tech support at Masonicare and we deliver books to homebound patrons who can no longer come to the Library. We have installed a built-in speaker

and microphone system to enhance our programs and installed a water bottle filling station. The Library has met its Annual Appeal goal of almost \$250,000 and our Endowment continues to grow at a rate higher than our annual draw.

None of these goals would have been achieved without our tremendous staff. We are truly blessed to have Micayla Hall as our Executive Director. Micayla effectively manages our 5 full-time employees and 21 part-time employees. Staff are well trained and have the right mix of skills to execute all of our services and programs.

The Board has a broad and deep bench of trustees with differing backgrounds from law, finance, business, education, development, communications, and construction. I am very pleased that Betsy Bowman has agreed to be the next President of the Library. She will be ably supported by Diana Beck, John Farmelo, and Sarina McGugan who all form the Executive Committee.

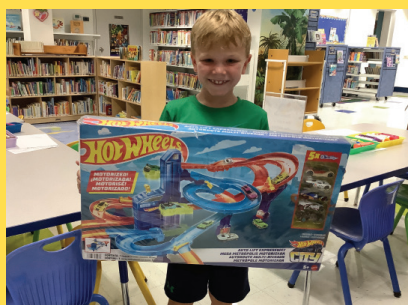
Six years ago, I was worried about the future of libraries. After six years on the Board at SFL, I have seen how libraries evolve to meet the needs of their community. I am very confident that the Stonington Free Library will be around for another 100 years. Of course, we

cannot do this without the support of our community. Please keep the Library high on your list of annual donations. I also ask that you consider the Library as a beneficiary in your estate planning. You will see in this report that we have a small but growing list of members in our Babcock-Phelps Society. These are supporters who have included a gift for the Library in their wills. Please let us

know if you have included the Library in your estate planning so that we can recognize you in our Babcock-Phelps Society.

Kevin

Kevin Bowdler
President



Prize Winners

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin Bowdler - President
Betsy Bowman - Vice President
& Treasurer
Diana Beck - Secretary
Ann Baldelli
Kathryn Brandl
Kim Cardinal
Will Dittman
Denise Easton

John Farmelo
Jean Fiore
Mike Fontana
Jocelyn Kepple
Michele Kirk
Sarina McGugan
Julie Quinn

*As of June 30, 2025



Halloween Visit from Calvary Nursery School

"I like that my Library offers a wide selection of books and activities. I have been participating in the summer reading program since kindergarten and look forward to it every summer!" - Child SFL patron

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



- Local merchants
- Stonington Human Services
- Stonington Village Improvement Association
- Stonington Borough Merchants Association

What a Year at SFL! This year, in line with our mission to **enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas, and people together**, we've had an incredible time expanding our reach and deepening our impact across Pawcatuck and Stonington.

We offered a broad variety of **enrichment programs** in the arts including music, theater, film, and visual arts, while continuing to host our ever-popular **book and poetry talks**.

A major focus this year was **bringing the Library out into the community**.

We partnered with dedicated local organizations such as:

- Mystic Luxury Cinemas
- The United Theater
- Care facilities like Masonicare and StoneRidge
- Inclusion: a Sylvestre Foundation
- New Heights/Vista Life Innovations
- Neighborhoods like Edythe K. Richmond Homes and Stonington Arms
- Stonington Community Center (COMO)
- La Grua Center

These collaborations brought programs like **Cook the Book** and **Game Night** to life—building meaningful connections throughout Stonington and Pawcatuck.

One of the year's highlights was the opportunity to be a sponsor of the **Let's Build It LEGO program** in partnership with the COMO and Historic Stonington. This intergenerational event invited the entire community to come together and create in a fun, hands-on way.

We also remained active participants in beloved town traditions such as the **Village Fair** and the **Annual Stonington Borough Art Walk**, proudly hosting artists across the Library campus.

This year, we also launched something new and exciting: **ticket giveaways** to local cultural events! Community members enjoyed free access to:

- A screening of the important documentary **Those People** at Mystic Luxury Cinemas
- Salt Marsh Opera's stunning production of **Puccini's Gianni Schicchi** at the United Theater

And one of our most memorable programs? A **dramatic reading by the one and only Edgar Allan Poe** at La Grua Center. The audience filled every seat—drawing fans from well beyond Stonington—for a night that was thrilling, eerie, and unforgettable.

Gratefully,

Karla

Karla Boeddinghaus Umland
Assistant Director

Millie

Millie Donovan
Youth & Adult Services Assistant



Edgar Allan Poe
at La Grua Center



Cook The Book

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

- Cook the Book
- Silent Book Club
- Catch-up Book Group
- Stairwell Gallery
- Take & Make Activities
- SFL Thursday Afternoon Book Group
- SFL Nightclub
- Knit & Crochet Group
- Adult Summer and Winter Library Reading Challenges
- Tech Help Appointments
- Board Game Night with the Citadel Game Cellar
- Love Where You Read Art Contest
- Conversations on Death & Dying
- Poetry Corner with typewriter
- Community jigsaw puzzle
- Living Fully and Dying Prepared workbook group
- Seed Library
- Booked in the Boro writing workshop
- Crafty Companions

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- SFL at Your Door
- Masonicare Book Group
- StoneRidge Book Group
- Human Services Book Group
- Fourth of July Parade
- Village Fair Book Sale
- 6 Little Free Libraries
- Find the Buoy scavenger hunt
- National Library Week activities
- Battle of Stonington 5K
- Tech Help at Masonicare
- Read-aloud at Masonicare Memory Care
- SFL Library Day at Stonington Arms
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Let's Build It!
- Presentation at Masonicare Book Club on borrowing ebooks
- Annual Stonington Borough Art Walk
- Connecticut Author Trail

"Their programs and offerings are always evolving and the staff is highly responsive to patrons."

- Adult SFL patron

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Fiscal year: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

- Lara Ehrlich, Thought Fox Writers Den: live podcast
- Eleanor Kedney: poetry
- Russ Kramer: Marine art (collaboration with La Grua Center)
- Charles Hartman and Martha Collins: poetry
- Plein Air Painting on the Green, self guided: Part of the 2024 LOVE Where You Read Art Contest
- Brian Stoll: Broadway on a Budget (collaboration with area libraries)
- Campbell Harmon: Edgar Allan Poe historical reenactment (collaboration with La Grua Center)
- Joanna Scott: Seafarer by James Longenbach
- Rob Palmer: A Fireman in the Making
- Amanda Martin: Madagascar
- King Arthur Flour: Apple pie baking (collaboration with area libraries)
- Green Planet Films, Curtis Goodwin. Those People: How a Talent Show Turned Pain into Healing (collaboration with Mystic Luxury Cinemas)
- Jigsaw Jamboree puzzle competition
- One Book, One Region kickoff event (collaboration with area libraries)
- The Anxious Generation book discussion (collaboration with Stonington Public Schools)
- Cormac O'Malley: The Enchanted Bay
- Entwined Early Music: Celtic music
- Shuttle Press & Bindery: Book binding class
- Margaret Gibson: Draw Me Without Boundaries
- Steve Fagin: AMC's Best Day Hikes in Connecticut and Rhode Island
- Jason Rekulak: Hidden Pictures (collaboration with area libraries)
- Salt Marsh Opera: Puccini's Gianni Schicchi (collaboration with The United Theater)
- Kevin Sherwin: Classical guitar (collaboration with La Grua Center)



Jigsaw Jamboree puzzle competition

"I plowed through this book! It's fun to get to hear from the author. Thanks for sharing the other book covers as well!"

– Author talk attendee



Art & Storytelling with Adrienne Pratt



The Pirate Guy thrilled young buccaneers with tales of the high seas.



3rd Grade Visit



Those People Film Screening



Gingerbread Houses

YOUTH SERVICES



“The only thing you have to know is the location of the Library.” - Albert Einstein

Einstein’s quote perfectly encapsulates the purpose of public libraries: they offer something for everyone. From research materials and the latest bestselling novels to games, DVDs, puzzles, and computers, libraries provide a wide array of programs and services free of charge, enriching the lives of patrons in countless ways.

This year has been particularly vibrant in the Children’s Room, with programming that has helped children in our community learn, grow, and develop a sense of belonging at the Stonington Free Library.

In the fall, we welcomed third graders from Deans Mill, West Vine Street School, and Saint Michael’s. Students received a tour of the Library, learned about the role of local Rotary clubs, participated in a scavenger hunt, and enjoyed a story time session. Each student left the Library with their own Library card and

a free book of their choice, generously funded by the Rotary clubs of Mystic and the Stoningtons, and transportation financed by the Leslie Buck Foundation. The students were amazed by all that the Library had to offer, and many returned with their families to share what they had learned.

We also offered a variety of enrichment programs for children of all ages and interests. Staff member Karen Lindeborg conducted two chess clubs for grades 3-12 throughout the year, attended by numerous children. She also led a creative writing workshop for children, where she guided participants in writing and illustrating their own stories. The class culminated with each participant taking home a hardcover book that they created!

Every year, the community eagerly anticipates a beloved holiday tradition: decorating gingerbread houses. In partnership with Vesta Bakery in Westerly, R.I., we purchase 60 gingerbread houses for families to decorate. We provide all the necessary materials, and families can reserve a house to pick up at the Library in December. Families share photos of their creations, and their feedback is always appreciated.

Our weekly storytimes and visits from local nursery schools further supplemented the experiences of our youngest patrons. We were fortunate to have local author Libby Koponen join us to read her current board book, *Is That the Bus?* Additionally, we learned about service dogs when Catharine Garbo visited storytime with her service dog, Olive, and her puppy, Albee, to teach us how to care for and properly pet dogs.

In April, the Eastern Connecticut Ballet provided an interactive creative movement performance. Children participated in dancing and moving to classical music that incorporated themes of flowers and springtime.

Summer Reading provides a valuable opportunity for children to engage in reading and learning. This year, we had 389 children participate in the program, which collectively resulted in 5,171 hours of reading. We offered 54 programs, attracting a total of 1,771 attendees. We were fortunate to provide our community with programs that promoted both reading and educational experiences.

One highlight was The Pirate Guy, who captivated children with stories about real pirates, including Blackbeard, and led them in related games and crafts. Additionally, local artist Adrienne Pratt taught participants how to draw and paint pictures of animals, encouraging them to write stories to accompany their artwork. Other activities included coding classes, Grab and Go craft kits, and a class on competitive sport stacking, all of which enhanced the summer reading experience.

The Children's Room remains a welcoming space where families come together to learn and play. We are thankful to the community for their ongoing support of the Library's mission: To enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas, and people together. This past year has truly been enriching!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Taylor

Cathy Taylor
Youth Services Director



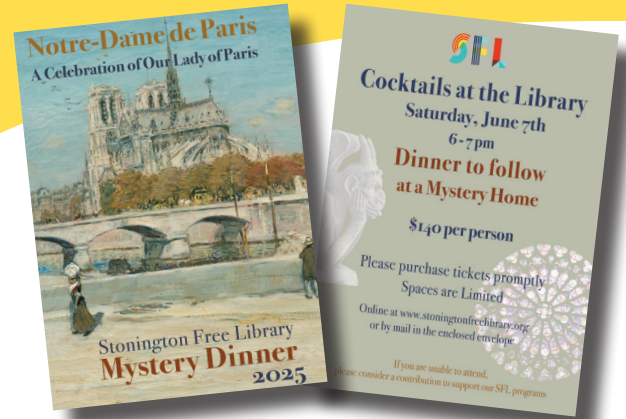
Storytime with Libby Koponen



3rd Grade Visit

"Thank you for being so amazing!"
- Child SFL patron

MYSTERY DINNER



One hundred and thirty guests gathered at the Stonington Free Library for cocktails on Saturday evening, June 7, before heading off to a series of intimate dinner parties in town with friends, old and new. The occasion was the 15th annual Mystery Dinner fundraiser, organized by the 2025 Mystery Dinner Committee, whose volunteer members work tirelessly to create this unique event every year. This year's theme was "Notre-Dame de Paris: A Celebration of Our Lady of Paris."

Upon arrival at the 6pm cocktail party, guests were astonished to see the Library transformed into Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, thanks to the vision, creativity, and hard work of the Art Committee, led by indefatigable Art Committee Chair Polly Dufresne. Committee members and other volunteers undertook the Herculean task of creating the set pieces and installing them for the pre-dinner cocktail party, featuring flowers, hand-cut gargoyles, and reproductions of the Cathedral's famous stained-glass

windows, including the famous Rose window. It was so much fun to see our guests and committee members dressed up for the occasion, mingling with old friends, meeting new ones, and eagerly opening up their "mystery envelopes" to discover the names of their hosts and dining locations for the evening.

At 7 pm, guests departed to 19 locations across Stonington, where they had the opportunity to meet friends and neighbors while enjoying a delicious, authentic French-based meal prepared by their hosts.

The Mystery Dinner began in 2009 and remains the Library's signature and most popular annual fundraising event, consistently selling out.

Twenty-one volunteers made up this year's Mystery Dinner Committee, chaired by Beth Black. The Library raised over \$30,000 to support programs and services, including \$12,000 for a much-needed speaker system to support our many live programs and a much-

requested community water bottle filling station to replace single-use plastic water bottles. Thank you to our committee members, board members, volunteers, hosts, and guests for their support of this unique event!

Please visit our website at www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org/support/mystery-dinner to find a link to many wonderful photos taken throughout the evening by Chelsey Green Photography and a few of our 2025 hosts.



Mystery Dinner Hosts

Melanie Cava and Todd Drevo
Alessandra Devine and Pat Dorsey
Deborah Dodds and Greg Smith
Denise and Richard Easton
Cynthia Elliott and Doug Rice
Jean Fiore and Patrick Keenan
Anne Fix and Kevin Bowdler
Muriel and Mike Fontana
Mary Fowler and Bill Wolf
Geraldine Nager Griffin and
Courtney Katzenstein
Mary Hyde and Bob Katz
Erica Lindberg and
Thomas Mitchell
Kate and Tim Love & Kat and
Malcolm Macdonald
Sibby Lynch and Michael Schefers
Amy and Tyger Nicholas & Lindsey
Harper and Chris Gefaell
Cheryl and Dave Purvis
Ruth Saunders and Jim White
Kim and Mark Spano &
Mike Roberts
Sally and Clem Wood

Planning Committee

Beth Black, Chair
Ann Buffum
Andrea Bunger
Rory Contin
Polly Dufresne
Anne Fix
Muriel Fontana

Barbara Ginsberg
Geraldine Nager Griffin
Allegra Griffiths
Barbara Heuer
Sally McBee
Laura Moran
Julie Quinn

Frissie Reed
Beth Savage
Clare Sheridan
Chris Turrentine
Aléjandra Welch
Judy Westwood
Sage Williams

Our heartfelt thanks to this year's Mystery Dinner hosts & Planning Committee, as well as Cove Ledge, Cask n' Keg, Regan Morse, Stonington Garden Club, Verdant Floral Studio, LLC, & our superb roster of volunteers for their generous contributions to this event!

MYSTERY DINNER



**A big thank you to our
2025 5K race sponsors:**

Dime Bank
The Inn at Stonington
Kelley's Pace
New Balance
Stonington Consign to Design
Woodfellas Pizza & Wings



“Thank you & the rest of the staff so much! I appreciate the Library goodies almost as much as I appreciate all that the SFL staff does for the community. I’m looking forward to my next good book and the next Library event.”

– Patron who won a prize for the April Library Challenge



Silent Book Club



“Karen Lindeborg who runs our Booked in the Borough writing group has gone beyond to keep us interested and moving forward in our individual writings.” - Adult SFL patron



Molly Linder



Bex Hering

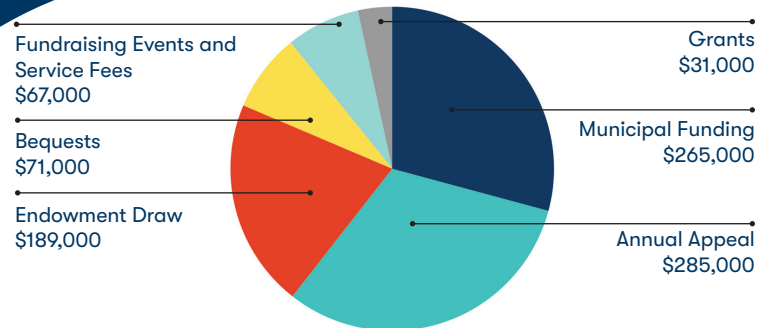


Karen Lindeborg

FINANCIALS



Operating Income



We are pleased to report that the Stonington Free Library had another excellent year, reflecting both the steadfast generosity of our supporters and the Library's ongoing commitment to responsible financial stewardship. Thanks to continued community engagement and sound fiscal management, the Library remains in strong financial health and continues to make meaningful progress toward our strategic goal of long-term financial stability. This includes improved fundraising outcomes, stable municipal support, a growing endowment, and prudent oversight of our resources.

The Library recorded approximately \$908,000 in operating income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This represents a 1.4% decrease from the previous year, primarily due to a decline in bequest revenue. Despite this, several key income areas showed notable gains:

- A record-breaking Annual Appeal, which increased 18% or \$44,000 from \$241,000 to \$285,000. The Annual Appeal represented 31% of total

operating income.

- Municipal funding from the Town and Borough was \$250,000 (28% of total operating income), marking a 4% increase over the prior year. The Library also benefited from a \$13,000 state-funded connectivity grant, which supported technology infrastructure.
- The Endowment draw remained stable at \$189,000, representing 21% of operating income, and aligned with the Library's spending policy.
- Bequests and memorial gifts totaled \$71,000, accounting for 8% of operating income. This was a decrease from the prior year, which included an exceptional unrestricted bequest of \$150,000. While bequest revenue is impactful, it is inherently unpredictable and difficult to budget. We recognize and thank members of the Babcock-Phelps Society, who have included the Library in their estate plans.

Total operating expenses (excluding depreciation) were \$831,000, an

increase of \$69,000 (9%) over the prior year total of \$762,000. This increase was primarily driven by personnel costs, reflecting a strategic investment in staff capacity and benefits.

- Personnel costs were the largest expense category. At \$532,000, payroll and healthcare benefits represented 64% of operating expenses and were \$38,000, or about 8%, more than the prior year.
- Library materials, programs, IT, and digital resources amounted to \$154,000 (17%), a 9% increase, reflecting expanded offerings and enhanced digital services.
- Building maintenance, insurance and utilities of \$82,000 (10% of operating expenses), were up by about 4% from last year.
- All other expenses accounted for the remaining 8%.

As of June 30, 2025, the Library had \$152,000 in the bank. During the

year, we invested \$35,000 in capital improvements, including masonry work and a comprehensive structural review. These improvements were funded by the Capital Investment Fund, a Board-designated fund with a balance of \$467,000 at the fiscal year end.

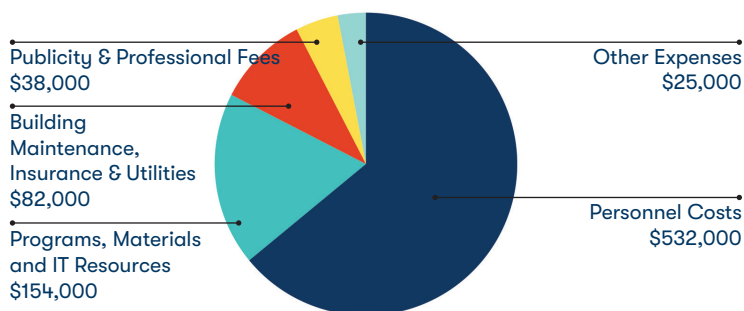
The Library's endowment stood at \$5.8 million, with a net return of 10.7% for the fiscal year. The Board reviewed the endowment's performance and affirmed the current 4% annual spending policy, finding no need for changes to the investment strategy. (Note: Unrealized gains and losses on investments are not included in the Operating Income figures presented in this report.)

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy

Betsy Bowman
Vice President and Treasurer

Operating Expense



Storytime with Olive



Reading with Rudy

"Thanks again for hosting my talk. I always appreciate the wonderful services libraries provide. That and education are the best uses of taxpayers' dollars." – SFL program presenter

PEDIMENT SOCIETY

This report recognizes contributors to the Library during the past fiscal year: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Our community of friends and supporters enrich the Library with their generous donations. Thank you for supporting the greater Stonington community and advancing our mission to enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas, and people together.



The Pediment Society recognizes the generosity of donors at levels of \$500 and above annually.

\$10,000 and above

Ben and Marggie Blake
The Borough of Stonington
The Connecticut State Library Association
Michael and Dudley Del Balso
Marc and Barbara Ginsberg
The Kitchings Family Foundation
Ann Lobdell
Joyce and Francis Pandolfi
The Town of Stonington
The Wimpfheimer Foundation

\$5,000 to \$9,999

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries
Kevin Bowdler and Anne Fix
Christopher Dixon
Sandy Fromson
Priscilla and Charles Hodges Memorial Fund
Thomas and Sarael Sargent
Jane I. Schaefer
Paul Stimson
Tom's News Stand

\$2,500 to \$4,999

John and Binti Ackley
Ted and Diana Beck
Betsy Bowman and Spike Lobdell
Stillman Brown
Charles T. Clark
Richard and Denise Easton
Muriel and Mike Fontana
William Fowler and Mary Wolf

William J. Griffin, IV
Brian and Allegra Griffiths
Kelley's Pace
Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation
Casey Malcolm
Tom Sanford
Raymond Uzasas
Alan Vaskas and Janet McClendon
Barry Weprin and Patricia Langer
Katherine White

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Anonymous
James R. and Pamela Alexander
The Alice Fund c/o The Community Foundation of Eastern CT
Amdur Family Fund
ASA Environmental Products, Inc.
Frances Ashley
Susan Ayers
Alan and Patience Banister
Eric Baum
Randall B. Bean and Beth Black
Susan and Bill Blair
Annette L. Born
Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation
Richard and Lois Cole
Tony and Harriet Crane
Jean Dixon
John Farmelo and Laura Hopkins
Susan and John Fullerton
Michael Golay and Julie Quinn
Mike and Donni Halvorson
Robert Harding
Peyton Horne
Peter and Eileen Jachym
Patrick Keenan and Jean Fiore
Deborah Kotchen
John and Mary LaMattina

Kelly and Fritz Lance
Susan Lindberg
Bruce and Catherine Littman
Daniel Mallett and Marie Claire Ged
Harry and Susan Martin
Brenda J. Mixson
Lynanne Morganstern
Kelly Medlin Morton and Wayne Pescatello
Jim and Terri Muren
Sandra Murray
Wright and Anna Maria Palmer
John and Mary Pappajohn Family Foundation
Maggie Perkinson
James Royle and Ann Gray
Elizabeth and Matthew Savage
Arnold and Kate Schmeidler
K. Hoskins Smith
Somewhere in Time Cafe
Stephanie and James Sorenson
Nicholas Streeter
Jessica Villardi and Tom Guzowski
Beth Walker
Blunt and Nancy White
James and Karen Wittliff
Eugene and Georgia York

\$500 to \$999

Anonymous
Susan J. Alston and Thomas Millette
Jean M. Anderson
Ann Baldelli and Donald Raffo
Damon and Sally Ball
Katherine Ballard and Revell Horsey
Josephine R. Bump
Kevin and Linda Cassidy
Castle Family Foundation
Donald and Jane Charbonnier
Samuel and Beth Chapin
Maurice and Kathleen Clark
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Davnet Schaffer Conway

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Delmhorst
John Delmhorst
Heather Donahue
Patrick Dorsey and
Alessandra Devine
Penelope Duckham
Dinda Elliott and Adi Ignatius
Carole Enfield
Katherine Forest Crafts Foundation
Chris and Beth Freeman
Katherine Garfield and Sarah Berry
June Gardner
Richard and Koko Gildersleeve
John and Jan Hardink
Hartley Corporation
Stephen and Lynn Hazard
James Higgins and Jill Tate-Higgins
Alison K. Hoagland
Nan Jernigan
Rodney and Lucia Johnstone
James and Mary Kelley
Jocelyn Kepple
Nicholas and Noreen Kepple
Stephen and Mary King
John and Elizabeth Leamon
Stephanie Marie Leouzon
David Luce and BJ Gaynor
Merrily W. Lyon

John Malmros and
Rosemary Contin
Rick and Mary Ellen McCarthy
The Mystic Woman's Club
John O'Donnell and Audrey Abbott
Cormac O'Malley
Richard Newton
Mark Ostlund
Sandra Pereira
Jonathan Post and Susan Gallick
Kathryn Procko and Daniel Brandl
David and Cheryl Purvis
The Rhode Island Foundation
R. Douglass Rice and Cynthia Elliott
Joseph and Alice Sasso
Edward and Carol Sauers
Clare E. Sheridan
Sloan and Heather Sheridan-Thomas
David MacKenzie Smith
Shau-Wen Lucia Sokol
George and Brenda Sylvestre
Alison Taylor
John and Christine Turrentine
Ramsey Walker
Liz and Harry White
Joseph and Kirby Williams
Thomas and Sage Williams
Theresa C. Wilson
Clement and Sally Wood

BABCOCK-PHELPS SOCIETY

The Babcock-Phelps Society, named for the Library's two earliest benefactors, recognizes individuals who have chosen to remember the Library in their estate planning documents.

Anthony Bailey*
John Michael Bass*
Robert Baum*
Jean Blanchet*
Kevin Bowdler and Anne Fix
Mrs. Helen Brewster*
Peter Megargee Brown*
Donald Charbonnier
Jane Charbonnier
Nan Jernigan
Osborne Elliott Charitable Trust*
Inger McCabe Elliott*
Charles and Elizabeth Harding*
Priscilla F. Hodges*
Jean M. Jones*
Cynthia Crawford Lichtenstein*
Sheila Lyons*

Maria McVitty*
Aileen Mulligan*
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic C. Paffard, Jr.*
Joyce and Francis P. Pandolfi
Santo Puglisi*
Elizabeth Holliday Ramsey*
William Reardon*
Katharine Robinson*
Sheila Rock
Ann B. Ryon*
Carol and Edward Sauers
Owen Sherry*
Heidi and Robert Simmons
Nora Spens, M.D., Rev.*
Willard L. Spiegelman
Anne T. Stevens*
Judith and Andrew Westwood

*Deceased

Grants Received

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries

Awarded \$6,000 for the creation of the SFL mobile app.

The Connecticut State Library Internal Connections Grant

Awarded \$13,000 to improve our network infrastructure, equipment, and Wi-Fi speeds.

Katherine Forest Crafts Foundation

Awarded \$500 grant to hire Shuttle Press Bindery to offer a leather wrap journal workshop.

The Kitchings Family Foundation

Awarded \$25,000 to support Library operations.

Leslie Buck Memorial Fund

Provided transportation for 3rd grade visitors.

The Mystic Rotary Club

Awarded \$124.50 for the purchase of books for 3rd grade visitors.

The Mystic Woman's Club

Awarded \$800 for a 1-year subscription to World Book Online.

The Rotary Club of the Stoningtons

Awarded \$124.50 for the purchase of books for 3rd grade visitors.

CONTRIBUTIONS

This report recognizes contributors to the Library during the past fiscal year – July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025



\$250 to \$499

Ann Adair
Louise Anderson
Neal Anderson and
Courtney McQuade
Anne Bartholet
Gary and Frances Bennett
John Boone and Jenny Dixon
James Boylan
Elizabeth Tobin Brown
Sylvia Brown
Alan and Mary Jane Brush
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Contact Michele Crowley at development@stoningtonfreelibrary.org.



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One of the best parts of my job as Director of Development and Communications is working with our amazing SFL volunteers. They help with events like the Village Fair Book Sale, Mystery Dinner, and Battle of Stonington 5K, keep our Little Free Libraries stocked, operate the seed library, and prep new books each week. Our volunteers embody dedication, positivity, and a can-do spirit—thank you for all you do!

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1,300+ books acquired for 13 local book clubs



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524 Reading Program registrants

88% participation rate
6,926 hours read



6 Little Free Libraries distributed 2,292 free books



32,400+ public computer and WiFi sessions



53,000+ visitors

All services are available to non-cardholders, except for checkout of materials



4,258 active cardholders

Stonington 46%/Pawcatuck 26%/Mystic 15%/Other 13%



31,000+ website sessions



371,000+ physical & digital check outs



2,600+ reference and tech questions



5 full-time, 21 part-time staff



661 Annual Appeal donations



166 volunteers worked over 2,200+ hours. Est. value > \$74,035

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