



Artwork by
Sally McBee of Two Bees Design, 2023 Winner



**STONINGTON
FREE LIBRARY**

**2023 - 2024
ANNUAL
REPORT**

FROM THE DIRECTOR



This past year, the library's focus has been "connecting the community" with a goal of connecting our members with resources, programs, physical and digital materials, each other, local organizations, and more. Our wonderful SFL team members are essential to making these connections happen. Each and every one of us is always ready to welcome and assist anyone who either steps into the library or connects with us at our community outreach initiatives. We truly appreciate the positive feedback we receive from our patrons who nearly always mention the friendly, welcoming, and helpful staff. We strive to provide exceptional customer service while making these connections throughout the community.

Speaking of our great team, we added another full-time position this year by expanding our Director of Development and Communications position into a full-time role. Michele Crowley joined us in September 2023 and actively jumped into the position, leading us through a very successful fundraising year. Thanks to Michele's efforts and our community of donors, we exceeded our largest

Annual Appeal goal to date. The success of this year's appeal was also due to the incredible generosity of two anonymous donors who inspired an additional 100+ donations through their matching gift opportunity. We are deeply grateful for their support and love for SFL.

Cathy Taylor, Director of Youth Services, and Millie Donovan, Youth & Adult Services Librarian, have done a phenomenal job in their now full-time roles this past year. They have transformed the Youth Services Department by securing grant opportunities, rearranging the space, starting new successful program initiatives, and collaborating with local businesses and organizations. Millie and Assistant Director Karla Umland continue to expand our adult programming offerings. We now provide home delivery service for those who can't physically make it to the library, a new monthly Cook the Book club, and more. Please read on for more details in Cathy and Karla's reports.

Our eighteen part-time Library Assistants and Technical Assistants help to support and run our year-round programs and services both on and off site. From handling interlibrary loans, managing our book clubs, planning our monthly "take and make" activities,

and offering tech help at both SFL and Masonicare, we would not be able to make these community connections without our dedicated part-time team members.

I am delighted to report that many of our important service statistics have increased year over year. Physical circulation is up 14%, digital circulation increased by 262% with patrons reading a variety of newspaper and magazine articles on PressReader, library cardholders increased by 11%, WiFi usage and visitor counts were both up

20%, and program attendance rose 72%. I believe this shows that we successfully met this year's goal of connecting community members to our many services.

Whether we see you daily, weekly, monthly or annually, we look forward to connecting with you again soon!



Micayla Hall
Director



“I love books, obviously. And I love all the services that are offered - from checking out a wifi hotspot, to having access to Pressreader and other online tools. And of course, the librarians and staff are always welcoming and helpful when I come inside.”



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Whenever I tell people I am the President of the Stonington Free Library Board, I normally preface it with words such as “I am fortunate and privileged to be the President of the SFL Board.” It is such a joy to be associated with the library. It is never a chore because the library has so many wonderful attributes and so few issues that require the Board’s attention.

We are blessed with an amazing Executive Director in Micayla Hall who in turn is supported by four excellent permanent staff and many part-time staff. There has been very little turnover in staff this past year, and Micayla has been able to promote from within or recruit talented staff who are pursuing a career in libraries. Being able to recruit and retain good staff is a testament to good leadership. Thank you, Micayla. It takes a large team of qualified and dedicated staff to run the programs and services offered by the library seven days a week. We are the only library in the area to be open seven days a week. I always say that the SFL punches far above its weight when you look at the very long list of programs and services that are publicized in our monthly e-librarian email.

The strategic plan that was completed in 2017 is still relevant today and the Board selected three goals for the library staff to focus on this past year:

The first goal focused on *sustainable fundraising*. We surpassed our annual fundraising goal and made good progress in meeting with key members of our donor community as well as our elected officials whose support we need for municipal funding each year.

The second goal focused on *community outreach* and how it plays into our mission statement, “to enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas, and people together.” This mission statement is a perfect guide to all our decisions. We have been focusing on programs and services that can be provided outside of the library. We are very proud of **SFL at Your Door**, the home delivery service we provide for people who cannot physically make it to the library. We support nine local book clubs, six little libraries, and have started collaborations with the COMO and New Heights in Pawcatuck.

The third goal was to *landscape* the east side of the building. That work was completed last fall with beautiful new plantings that screen the condensers and ramp on the east side of the building.

We greatly appreciate the generosity and commitment of our supporters, volunteers, patrons, and municipal funders (the Town of Stonington and the Borough of Stonington). Without your support, the projects, services, programs, and accomplishments outlined in this report would not have been possible. Thank you for recognizing the vital role of the library in the community. It is because of you

that the library is the trusted, beloved, and vibrant institution that makes it an essential part of the Stonington community.

With much appreciation,



Kevin Bowdler
President

A big thank you to our 2024 5K race sponsors:

- Dime Bank
- Kelley's Pace
- Woodfellas Pizza and Wings
- Berkshire Hathaway Home Services/NE Properties
- Stonington Consign to Design
- Ship Shape Shop
- MACSEA, Ltd.



“We’ve enjoyed taking out puzzles to do as a family this summer!”



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Kevin Bowdler - *President*
- Betsy Bowman - *Vice President & Treasurer*
- Diana Beck - *Secretary*
- Ann Baldelli
- Marggie Blake
- Kathryn Brandl
- Will Dittman

- Denise Easton
- Jean Fiore
- Mike Fontana
- William Griffith
- Jocelyn Kepple
- Julie Quinn

*As of June 30, 2024

“The staff is amazing, the library is beautiful, and the selections are great!”



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



In order to fulfill our mission of enriching lives and building community by bringing information, ideas and people together, we are always trying new ways to connect our community. This year thanks to grants, volunteers, and SFL staff members, we embarked on the library version of DoorDash! Library patrons who cannot get to the library in person can sign up for **SFL at Your Door** and a bag of library books will be delivered to their doorstep once a month. SFL also brings the library into the community by facilitating **Cook the Book** at local venues. Participants borrow a copy of each month's cook book at the library and bring their selected dishes to the hosting venue.

For those who prefer to connect digitally, our **Mystery Dinner** guests generously donated funds so that we can build a

more robust ebook collection, which can be accessed from any location with the internet. Connecting over board games has become very popular in post-pandemic culture and our **Adult Game Nights** have brought all ages into the library to play table-top games like Ticket to Ride, Castle Panic, and Carcassonne.

The first annual **Love Where You Read** art contest was an opportunity to promote community art while showcasing the spaces and resources available at Stonington Free Library for artists, writers, creators, and readers. The art submissions were exhibited in the **SFL Stairwell Gallery** and some of the images were featured on notecards and calendars. Sales of the merchandise benefited library programs and operations. Supporters like you keep the library vibrant!

Gratefully,

Karla Boeddinghaus Umland
Assistant Director

“Thank you so much for doing such a wonderful launch party for **HAPPY HOUR**.

It was so special for me to have it at SFL & you did an amazing job promoting it.”

- Elissa Bass, “Happy Hour”

LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

During the fiscal year: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

- Jonathan Post: Anthony Hecht Centennial
- Bill Miller: Steel City
- Joe Alchermes: Rome
- Steve Telsey: Nautical Terms Come to Shore
- Henri Cole. Gravity And Center: Selected Sonnets 1994-2022
- David Eichelberg: Mohegan Tribal Culture (collaboration with local libraries)
- Brian Rose: A look inside It's a Wonderful Life (collaboration with local libraries)
- Monica Jenkins: From Clutter to Clarity (collaboration with local libraries)
- Bill Bleyer: The Sinking of the Steamship Lexington in Long Island Sound (collaboration with local libraries)
- Sandy Alexander & Lyndsay Dean: Marketing Your Business on a Shoestring Budget (collaboration with SBMA)
- Tom Verde: In a Class all Their Own (collaboration with La Grua Center)
- Jane Oneail: Art History Series (collaboration with local libraries)
- Annie C. Courtney Foundation: Foster Care Information Session (collaboration with local libraries and Town of Stonington)
- Passport to Connecticut Libraries (collaboration with Connecticut Library Association)
- Ray Uzanas: Vietnam
- David Leeming: James Baldwin centennial
- Mary McPheat: About AI (collaboration with local libraries)
- Elissa Bass: Happy Hour
- Lee Howard: Beyond the Polls (collaboration with The Day)
- Tim Love: Discovering Truth (collaboration with La Grua Center)
- Silent Book Club
- Kathleen Titsworth: Prevent Banking Scams (collaboration with local libraries)

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

- Stairwell Gallery
- Take & Make Activities
- SFL Book Group
- SFL Nightclub
- Knit & Crochet Group
- Adult Summer and Winter Library Reading Challenges
- Tech Help
- Cook the Book
- Board Game Night with the Citadel Game Cellar
- Love Where You Read Art Contest
- Conversations on Death & Dying
- Summer Visits with Therapy Dog Olive
- Summer Writing Critique Group
- Poetry Corner with typewriter
- Community Jigsaw Puzzle
- Library Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Living Fully and Dying Prepared Workbook Group
- Seed Library

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- SFL at Your Door
- Masonicare Book Group
- StoneRidge Book Group
- Human Services Book Group
- Spring Fest
- Fourth of July Parade
- Village Fair Book Sale
- 6 Little Free Libraries
- Find the Buoy scavenger hunt
- National Library Week activities
- Adult Book Fair at the Velvet Mill
- Battle of Stonington 5K
- Art Walk
- Eclipse glasses giveaway
- Tech Help at Masonicare

"Thank you doesn't begin to cover it, the programming for children is just exceptional and appreciated by so many in our community!"

YOUTH SERVICES



A Year to Be Grateful

Each year brings the opportunity for new beginnings, fresh ideas, and the visualization of dreams and wishes becoming reality. This year, the Children's Room at the Stonington Free Library saw these aspirations come to fruition, thanks to the generosity of various grants.

We've recognized that our library is more than a place for books; it is a vibrant community hub where families gather to play, socialize, and learn. Families homeschooling their children seek enriching educational materials, while children of all ages look for research resources and books for independent reading. We envisioned a space that could cater to these diverse needs, and I'm thrilled to share that our vision was realized through the support of several grants!

In December 2023, the Rotary Club of Stoningtons awarded us a grant of \$976.20. This funding allowed us to enhance our collection with new nonfiction topical books, including series on ecological disasters, Team Earth, Racism in Modern America, and sports encyclopedias.

In April, the Mystic Rotary Club generously provided a \$500 grant enabling us to

expand our collection of Wonderbooks. These innovative books feature a ready-to-play audiobook inside, allowing children to read along and engage in additional literacy activities. The grant helped us add twenty new Wonderbooks to our collection, meeting high demand and enriching our offerings.

Our Youth Services Department also plays a crucial role in outreach by visiting local preschools with story times and book crates. Thanks to an \$800 grant from the Mystic Woman's Club, we were able to purchase new fiction and nonfiction books, including current and culturally diverse titles, ensuring every child can see themselves represented in literature.

The Children's Room has become a cherished gathering place for families. To better serve our patrons, we sought to enhance our selection of toys and games. The Mystic Chamber of Commerce awarded us a \$1,000 grant which we used to purchase board games for all ages, educational toys for preschoolers, and building sets that foster creativity and STEAM skills.

Our final grant came from The Home Depot, amounting to \$2,818. This generous contribution was used to acquire picnic tables for our outdoor seating area, outdoor games like giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, and Cornhole, as well as a play kitchen for our creative play area downstairs. These additions have further enriched our library's offerings and created new opportunities for fun and learning.

The generosity of these organizations allowed us to “Dream Big!” This year, we offered 117 programs with 5,571 attendees. Highlights included a family performance of selections from the Nutcracker Suite by the Eastern Connecticut Ballet in November, and a unique visit from the Poop Museum in June. Both events were new and well-attended! Additionally, we hosted 30 Drop-in story times with 875 attending.

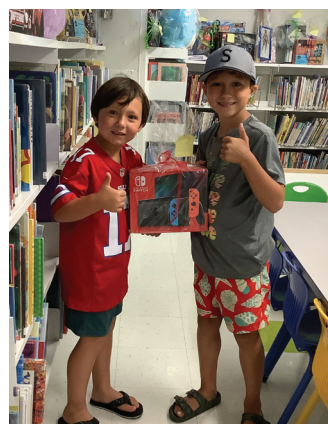
We are incredibly excited about the new books, toys, games, and equipment that have transformed our library. We continue

to expand our services to better meet the needs of our community, making the library a place of joy and friendship. We are truly “Grantful” for the generous community support that has made this possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Taylor

Cathy Taylor
Youth Services Director



“We love the summer reading program. It has incentivized my six year old to work on her reading more than anything else.”



“The teen room offers a wide selection of books, from nonfiction to graphic novels to mystery novels.”

MYSTERY DINNER



“Congratulations on another spectacular Mystery Dinner. Terrific theme, fabulous decor, delicious hors d’oeuvres and spirit filled the Library. Thank you one and all!”

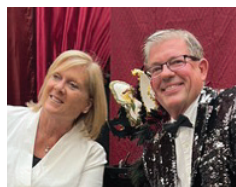
One hundred and fifty guests gathered at the Stonington Free Library for cocktails on Saturday evening, June 1, before heading off to a series of intimate dinner parties with friends, old and new. The occasion was the 14th annual Mystery Dinner fundraiser, organized by the 2024 Mystery Dinner Committee, whose volunteer members work tirelessly to create this unique event every year. Upon arrival at the 6 pm cocktail party, guests were pleasantly surprised to see the library turned into the Grand Ballroom of NYC’s famed Plaza Hotel, where they discovered the hosts and locations of their individual Mystery Dinners. At 7 pm, guests departed to 21 locations across Stonington, where they had the opportunity to meet friends and neighbors while enjoying delicious meals prepared by their hosts.

The Mystery Dinner began in 2009 and remains the Library’s signature annual fundraising event. This year’s theme was “A BLACK & WHITE AFFAIR: SFL LOOKS BACK AT CAPOTE’S BALL,” replicating the masquerade ball held at the Plaza Hotel in 1966. Hosted by Truman Capote,

a well-known author and social figure, the ball was in honor of The Washington Post’s publisher Katharine Graham, and was attended by 400 of his friends including NYC socialites, journalists, politicians, business people, writers, authors, and musicians. Leading up to the ball, many guests attended one of sixteen small private dinner parties that Capote’s friends had been drafted to host.

The Mystery Dinner continues to be the library’s most popular event and has consistently sold out. As guests said of this year’s event: “Terrific theme, fabulous decor, delicious hors d’oeuvres, and great community spirit filled the library!”

Nineteen dedicated volunteers made up this year’s Mystery Dinner Committee, and over \$27,500 was raised to support library services such as our digital collection of eBooks, audiobooks, music, movies, TV shows, magazines, newspapers and more.



Mystery Dinner Hosts

- Lisa Tepper Bates & Scott Bates
- Beth Black & Randy Bean
- Melanie Cava & Todd Drevo
- Beth & Sam Chapin
- Hobby & Matt Coudert
- Alessandra Devine & Pat Dorsey
- Deb Dodds & Greg Smith
- Lori & Dave Dyer
- Anne Fix & Kevin Bowdler
- Muriel & Mike Fontana
- Barbara & Marc Ginsberg
- Geraldine Nager Griffin
- Allegra & Brian Griffiths
- Julia & Paul Leeming
- Amanda & Griff Mann
- Susan & Harry Martin
- Deb Norman
- Dennis Palmer & Gerry Klender
- Joyce & Francis Pandolfi
- Jane & Tony Pellegrini
- Ruth Saunders & Jim White
- Beth & Matt Savage
- Karen von Ruffer & Francis Hills
- Trish & Brandon Walsh
- Aléjandra & Josh Welch
- Sally & Clem Wood

Planning Committee

- Jenni Adkins
- Beth Black
- Ann Buffum
- Andrea Bunger
- Rory Contin
- Polly Dufresne
- Anne Fix

- Barbara Ginsberg
- Geraldine Nager Griffin
- Allegra Griffiths
- Barbara Petty Heuer
- Sally McBee
- Julie Quinn

- Clare Sheridan
- Andie Tomek
- 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!

FINANCIALS

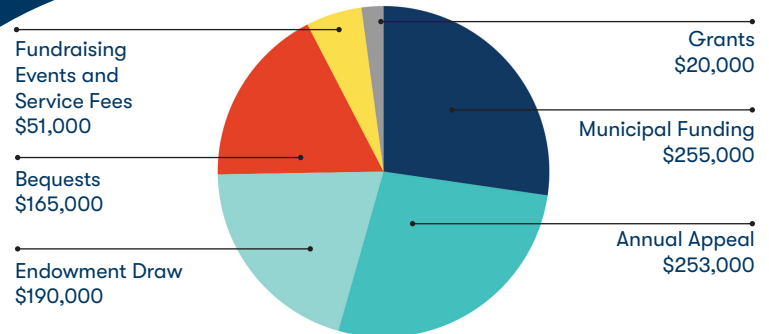


We are pleased to report that the Stonington Free Library had an excellent year. The Library continues to enjoy strong financial health and make progress on the strategic goal of achieving financial stability with improved fundraising efforts, stable municipal funding and a growing endowment.

The Library recorded approximately \$934,000 in operating income during the year ended June 30, 2024, an increase of \$208,000 or 29%, over the previous year. The dramatic increase was mainly due to receipt of a large bequest and the Annual Appeal.

- Municipal funding from the Town and Borough was \$255,000 (27.3 % of total operating income), about \$11,000, or 4.5%, up from the prior year.
- The Annual Appeal (27% of total operating income) increased 12% or \$28,000 from \$225,000 to \$253,000. Generous challenge matches from two anonymous donors helped the Library set this new Annual Appeal record.
- The Endowment draw of \$190,000 (20% of operating income) was basically flat with the prior year.

Operating Income



- Bequest revenue is difficult to predict or budget. But this year, the Library recorded \$165,000 (18% of operating revenue) in bequests and memorial gifts mainly due to an unrestricted bequest of \$150,000. \$11,000 was recorded in the prior year.

Operating expenses, excluding depreciation, were \$744,000, an increase of \$70,000 over the previous year total of \$674,000. The increase was mainly due to higher payroll expenses associated with converting two positions from part-time to full-time and modest wage increases.

- Personnel costs were the largest expense category. At \$494,000, payroll represented 66% of operating expenses and were \$43,000, or about 10%, over the prior year.
- The next highest category at 17% of total operating expense was library materials, programs, IT and digital resources of \$127,000 (an increase of 14% over last year).
- Building maintenance, insurance and utilities of \$74,000 were flat with last year, and represented about 10% of operating expenses. During the year,

about \$35K was spent on capital improvements, such as windows, gutters, and landscaping. These improvements were funded by The Capital Investment Fund.

- All other expenses accounted for the remaining 7%.

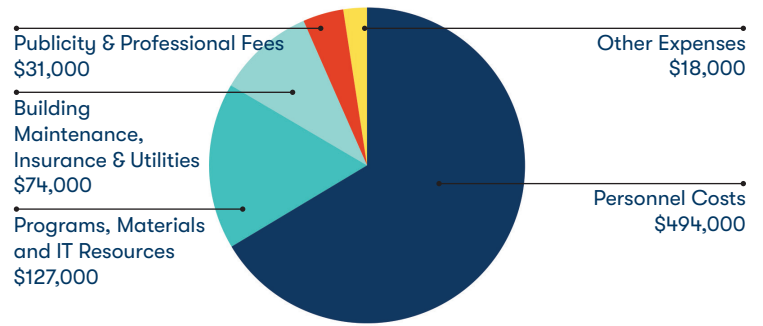
The Library had \$334,000 in the bank as of June 30, 2024. The endowment was \$5.2 million as of June 30, 2024. The net return on the endowment was 11.4% for the year. The Board does not see any reason to change the investment strategy or our 4% spend policy. Unrealized gains and losses on investments are not included in the Operating Income figures stated in this report.



Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Bowman
Treasurer and Vice President


Operating Expense




SUMMER READING 2024 STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY

Thank you doesn't begin to cover it, the programming for children is just exceptional and appreciated by so many in our community!



NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

75




NUMBER OF PROGRAM / ACTIVITY ATTENDEES

2,009


Patrons who participated in the Summer Reading Survey strongly agreed and agreed...

- Felt welcome at the library **97%**
- Enjoyed library activities **83%**
- Learned something **83%**
- Got help over the summer **87%**
- Plan to take part after summer **94%**




Patrons who participated in the Summer Reading Survey were...

- New to Summer Reading **31%**
- Previously Participated **69%**



We ran summer programming for:

- Early Childhood
- Children
- Teens
- Adults
- Families



PEDIMENT SOCIETY

This report recognizes contributors to the Library during the past fiscal year - July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024



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

\$10,000 and above

Ben and Marggie Blake
The Chester W. Kitchings Family Foundation
Ann Lobdell
The Wimpfheimer Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Kevin Bowdler and Anne Fix
Michael and Dudley Del Balso
Christopher Dixon
Sandy Fromson
Marc and Barbara Ginsberg
Priscilla and Charles Hodges Memorial Fund
Joyce and Francis Pandolfi
Jane I. Schaefer

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Ted and Diana Beck
Betsy Bowman and Spike Lobdell
Charles T. Clark
Richard and Denise Easton
Muriel and Mike Fontana
William Fowler and Mary Wolf
Gary Gerstein and Phyllis Weaver
William J. Griffin, IV
Brian and Allegra Griffiths
The Home Depot
Kelley's Pace
Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation
Stuart and Casey Malcolm
Tom's Newsstand
Raymond Uzasas
Kassy White

\$1,000 - \$2,499

James and Pamela Alexander
The Alice Fund c/o The Community Foundation of Eastern CT
Amdur Family Fund
Frances Ashley
Susan Ayers
Alan and Patience Banister
Eric Baum
Susan and Bill Blair
Annette Born
Stillman Brown and Meg Raftis
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT Foundation
Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Richard and Lois Cole
Michael and Merrily Connerly
Tony and Harriet Crane
Susan and John Fullerton
Bill and Jan Gibbs
Barbara Gildersleeve
Gildersleeve/White Fund
Sarah and Matt Ginsberg
Michael Golay and Julie Quinn
William Robert Griffith
Elizabeth Harding
Peyton Horne
Patrick Keenan and Jean Fiore
Nicholas and Noreen Kepple
Deborah Kotchen
John and Mary LaMattina
Archie and Diana Leslie
Bruce and Catherine Littman
John Malmros and Rosemary Contin
Daniel Mallett and Marie Claire Ged
Harry and Susan Martin
Diane Maxson
Jane Simmons Meiser and Dan Meiser
Lynanne Morganstern

We are grateful for the generosity of our library friends and supporters. Our community of donors enable the library to support the greater Stonington community and to advance its mission to enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas, and people together.

Scott and Caroline Muller
Sandra Murray
Joe Nigro
Wright and Anna Maria Palmer
Maggie Perkinson
Marcia W. Porter
James Royle and Ann Gray
Tom and Candy Sanford
Thomas and Sarael Sargent
Elizabeth and Matthew Savage
David MacKenzie Smith
Somewhere in Time Café
Willard L. Spiegelman
Alan Vaskas and Janet McClendon
Beth Walker
James and Karen Wittliff
Anne Wynne and Chris Errichetti

\$500 - \$999

John and Binti Ackley
Ann and Michael Hopkinson Adair
ASA Environmental Products, Inc.
Ann Baldelli and Donald Raffo
Damon and Sally Ball
Scott Bates and Lisa Tepper Bates
Randy Bean and Beth Black
Kathryn Procko and Daniel Brandl
Castle Family Foundation
Noelle Chabasseur
Samuel and Beth Chapin
Donald and Jane Charbonnier
Davnet Schaffer Conway
William Dittman
Jean Dixon
Declan and Dorothy Doogan
Patrick Dorsey and Alessandra Devine
Carole Enfield
Estate of Sheila Lyons
John Farmelo and Laura Hopkins
Chris and Beth Freeman
Richard and Koko Gildersleeve
Katrinka C. Gregor and John Stone
Geraldine Nager Griffin
John and Jan Hardink

Hartley Corporation
Stephen and Lynn Hazard
Barbara Petty Heuer
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Higgins
Elizabeth Hopkins
Mary Hughes
Paul Janssens and Jane Keener
Martin Jefson
Nan Jernigan
James and Mary Kelley
Jocelyn Kepple
Stephen and Mary King
John and Elizabeth Leamon
Stephanie Marie Leouzon
Sarah Stifler Lucas and
Timothy R. Cummings
David Luce and BJ Gaynor
Douglas and Evelyn Lyons
Roberta MacGregor
Sally McBee
Wade and Wendy McDevitt
Robert and Virginia Montgomery
Helen Moore
Kelly Medlin Morton and
Wayne Pescatello
Jim and Terri Muren
Mystic Rotary Club
Mystic Woman's Club
Richard Newton
Cormac O'Malley

Sarah Ostlund and
Louise Waldron Carter
Sandra Pereira
Maggie Perkinson
Geoffrey L. and Beverly B. Phillips
David and Cheryl Purvis
Peter I. Reinhardt and
Dmitry Nesterov
Doris Rich
Sarah Rogovin and Mark E. Twiss
Rotary Club of the Stoningtons
Edward and Carol Sauers
Arnold and Kate Schmeidler
Clare E. Sheridan
Sloan and Heather Sheridan-Thomas
Patricia Stamm
John W. Stone
Mary LaBelle Suter
George and Brenda Sylvestre
John and Christine Turrentine
David and Catherine Vargas
Jessica Villardi and Tom Guzowski
Susan Voorhees
Blunt and Nancy White
Liz and Harry White
Joseph and Kirby Williams
Thomas and Sage Williams
Anne Wynne
Eugene and Georgia York

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*	Sheila Lyons*
John Michael Bass*	Maria McVitty*
Robert Baum*	Mr. & Mrs. Frederic C. Paffard, Jr.*
Jean Blanchet*	Joyce & Francis P. Pandolfi
Mrs. Helen Brewster*	Santo Puglisi*
Peter Megargee Brown*	Elizabeth Holliday Ramsey*
Donald Charbonnier	Katharine Robinson*
Jane Charbonnier	Sheila Rock
Nan Jernigan	Ann B. Ryon*
Inger McCabe Elliott*	Carol and Edward Sauers
Charles Harding*	Owen Sherry*
Elizabeth Harding	Heidi & Robert Simmons
Priscilla F. Hodges*	Nora Spens, M.D., Rev.*
Jean M. Jones*	Anne T. Stevens*
Cynthia Crawford Lichtenstein	Judith & Andrew Westwood

*Deceased

Grants Received

The Home Depot

Awarded \$2,818 to acquire picnic tables for our outdoor seating area, outdoor games like giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, and Cornhole, as well as a play kitchen for our creative play area downstairs.

The Chester W. Kitchings

Family Foundation

Awarded \$20,000 to support library operations.

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT Foundation

Awarded \$1,000 to purchase board games for all ages, educational toys for preschoolers, and building sets that foster creativity and STEAM skills.

Mystic Rotary Club

Awarded \$500 to expand our children's library collection with 20 new Wonderbooks.

Mystic Woman's Club

Awarded \$800 to purchase new fiction and nonfiction books, including current and culturally diverse titles, ensuring every child can see themselves represented in literature.

Rotary Club of Stoningtons

Awarded \$976.20 to enhance our children and teen library collection with new nonfiction topical books.

"I love that there are so many books to choose from and so many different genres."

CONTRIBUTIONS

This report recognizes contributors to the Library during the past fiscal year – July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024



\$250.00 - \$499.99

Anonymous
Cindy Adam
Jean M. Anderson
Laurence Bates and Paul Ma
Anne Bartholet
Michael Mirsky and
Joanne Bergren
Tom and Deb Bigelow
Neal and Jane Lassen Bobruff
Elizabeth Tobin Brown
Gary and Susan Buonanno
Joanne Caldara
Jeffrey and Lynn Callahan
Kate and Daniel Careb
Castle Family Foundation
Jan Evans Chamberlain
Maurice and Kathleen Clark
Paul and Anne Collette
Jonathan and Denise Collins
Ian and Libby Cooke
Lori Coombs
Kevin Costello and
Alden Alexander
Charles and Cheryl Danis
Daphne Barnard Davis
Tertius and Belinda de Kay
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Delmhorst
John Delmhorst
Wynne Delmhorst
Helen DePersia
Jenny Dixon
Ken and Millie Donovan
Penelope Duckham
Brett Duncan
Judith G. duPont
Linda Dutra
David and Lori Dyer
Dinda Elliott and Adi Ignatius
Brooke Elmgren
Lawrence and Marcia Eppler
Timothy Hogen
Jerald and Joyce Fingerut
Gary H. Fisher and
Janice M. Marconi

William and Patricia Follett
Bob and Lois Geary
Julie Gehrig
Kathryn Bowling Graham
John and Alice Groton
Micayla Hall and Alex Bolanos
Robert and Julie Holland
Marguerette Hosbach and
Gerald Conroy
Nancy Brown Hughes
Chris Hutchins and
Rachel McCormick
Peter and Eileen Jachym
Sarah Janssens
The Henry J. Kaiser Family
Foundation
Courtney and Mike Katzenstein
Elizabeth J. Keane
Alaina Kindelan
Morgan and Milo King and
Rebekah Kepple
Andrew Krupansky
Richard and Antoinette Ledzian
Jaime J. Lewis and Kevin Rogers
Jane Lionelli
Rita Madison
Carol Martin
Carol Marzetta
Alexandra McCagg
Rick and Mary Ellen McCarthy
Hugh and Pam McGee
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