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FALL 2023

# Greensboro Free Library



## *The Buzz is Back*

It's heartwarming to see so many people returning to "Greensboro's Living Room." With children and adults attending programs, community groups holding meetings, and readers exchanging book suggestions, the Library has a certain buzz about it that I haven't felt in a while. On a recent Tuesday evening, kids in our afterschool program played in the backyard and listened to stories in our children's media room. Meanwhile, upstairs in our meeting room, a group led by a local teen Dungeon Master played Dungeons & Dragons. I was upstairs setting up our Meeting OWL (a camera and speaker for facilitating hybrid meetings) for the next night's town Select Board meeting. Later the same week, folks filled the chairs around the table in our Vermont Room for our memoir writing group, led by local author Krissie Ohlogge. I moved the coffee maker and teapot back into our Mystery Room, and moments later the writers as well as a patron here for the wife and a cozy chair were all enjoying warm drinks. Sometimes there's a quiet energy in the air here, and sometimes it's buzzing, but my hope is that it is always welcoming. We hope to see you soon.

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# A Note from our Director, Paula Davidson

My recent “free 5-minute puzzle fix” is the NYT daily puzzle Connections, so I couldn’t help imagining a GFL version as I thought about all of the organizations we connect with over the course of one year. What might look like a random collection of 16 words (or in our edition, all proper nouns) can be sorted into groups of four connected organizations. These local, state and national organizations have provided grants to fund programs and books, donated free goodies for patrons, and allowed us to take our services out into the community. See if you can sort them into four groups! Other programs we hosted this year in collaboration with community partners include:

- A presentation by UVM Professor Travis Reynolds (son of trustee Carol Reynolds) and his students about food resiliency in Puerto Rico.
- A Bird Walk led by Audubon member John Schweizer. Next year Greensboro Conservation Commission members will lead three bird walks starting here at the library.
- A spring talk on high garden yields by Breadseed Farm, and a fall workshop on growing mushrooms, both hosted by the Greensboro Community Garden Club. Participants planted wine cap mushrooms in a prepared bed in the library’s backyard. Look for mushrooms next summer!
- An introduction to loons with Eric Hanson of the Vermont Loon Conservation Project.
- Two new Little Free Library boxes – at Lakeview Elementary and Greensboro Bend’s public park –built by students at Green Mountain Technical Center and painted by local kids.
- A free family circus show in our backyard, presented by Circus Smirkus campers.
- Three talks from the Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau, on vegetable histories, beer making, and Vermont’s boat-building traditions. We held two of our summer programs in Greensboro United Church’s Fellowship Hall to provide easier access for attendees.

GFL is able to host a large number of programs with a small budget, thanks to donated time, materials, and money from all of these organizations. These connections are key to our mission of bringing members of our community together for lifelong learning and enrichment.

WILLEY’S	JASPER HILL	LAKEVIEW SCHOOL	CASPIAN BEACH COMMITTEE
CHILDREN’S LITERACY FOUNDATION	SMITH’S	TURRELL FUND	SALVATION FARMS
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	GREENSBORO ASSOCIATION	OSSU	GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES	GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	GREENSBORO NURSING HOME	GREENSBORO EARLY LEARNING CENTER

*Create  
Four  
Groups  
of Four!*

(ANSWERS ON  
BACK)



## We Made the List!

Greensboro is a small town. Really small! So small that our library is usually grouped with the smallest of Vermont libraries, serving populations under 1,000. However, on the recently published Vermont Public Library Survey, covering 2021, our service population covering Greensboro, the Bend, and Stannard was calculated by the state as 1,003, moving us up into a new cohort of 80 libraries serving populations from 1,000-2,500. And yet, Greensboro Free Library ranks among the top 10 of these eighty libraries in several important service categories: the number of hours open, the number of volunteer hours, total circulation, interlibrary loans (books requested from other libraries), program attendance, and website visits. We're as busy as libraries in much larger towns! How do we do it? Volunteers are key. Our part-time director and librarians are able to prepare, promote and offer so many services because our volunteers, including the library trustees, help with so many jobs crucial to library operations - staffing the library on evenings and weekends, circulating and shelving books, curating our upstairs book sale, and bookkeeping. Volunteers also lead some of our programs, from our Monet Painting Party this summer to our recent Death Café. Our donors are another key element to our success, as we rely on donations for over half of our operating budget. Thank you, volunteers, donors, and the towns of Greensboro and Stannard for helping our small library make a big impact!



## *With Your Help, We Grow and Thrive*

**We need your generous support** to move important projects forward. This fall the library is addressing important capital needs projects, including a new entry ramp for safer access and basement clean outs in preparation for mold remediation. We installed insulating window inserts on both floors of the Cuthbertson Wing, thanks to funding from the Church's Pleasants Fund.

We also received an extensive building energy audit as part of a state grant designed to identify and provide energy-saving upgrades to municipal buildings. Once we receive the completed audit early next year, we can apply for funding to follow through on its recommendations for future energy savings.

Next year, we plan to upgrade all computer technology to improve workflow for patrons and staff, and hope to create a sound-proof meeting room for private individual and group use. We will also begin assessing our Maker Space with the goal of creating a larger space more useful to patrons of all ages. Your support will help us move these projects forward. We appreciate all contributions, supporting our efforts to become the best Free Library for Greensboro, Greensboro Bend, Stannard, and the wider community.

**Email addresses wanted!** Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, we will be sending out our summer 2024 newsletter via email only. Please include your email address on the donation envelope or email it to [greensborofree@gmail.com](mailto:greensborofree@gmail.com) so we can stay connected.



### **Four by Four Answers:**

#### **Organizations offering free goodies for GFL patrons**

Jasper Hill Farms - Salvation Farms - Willey's Store - Smith's Grocery

#### **Organizations providing funding, logistics, and free lunch for GFL's Modern Times Theater Program**

Orleans SW Supervisory Union - Caspian Beach Committee - VT Dept. of Libraries - Greensboro Association

#### **Organizations issuing grants to GFL for programs and books**

American Library Association - Children's Literacy Foundation - Turrell Fund - Pleasants Fund (GUCC)

#### **Offsite locations for GFL cooperative programs**

Greensboro Nursing Home - Lakeview School - Greensboro Historical Society - Greensboro Early Learning Center