



November 2020

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Conceived as a product of community minded philanthropic residents, Gunn Memorial Library, Inc has continued to be looked after by volunteers - our Trustees, our seniors behind the circulation desk, and our fundraising event champions. We rely on student volunteers, we marvel at the expertise of our Museum volunteers and so appreciate the skilled story tellers and programmers who mesmerize our youngest patrons. Currently dampened by the restraints of safety protocols, we look forward to interacting with everyone as we have in the past.

Today we are challenged to find innovative ways to stay connected with our patrons. On-site programming has been replaced by Zoom and original GML programs on YouTube. The Cemetery Tour was recorded, allowing not only those who generally attend in person to experience the event, but also those who might not have been able to maneuver the walk. Take-and-make craft kits to complete at home have become the norm and our digital offerings increase weekly.

We are grateful for the financial commitment the Town has made to our institution, yet we are still dependent upon individual contributions as well. This year contributions to our Annual Appeal take on a new importance. As with so many other organizations, we have experienced the impact of our cancelled fundraising events which help us cover nearly 65% of our operating expenses.

Last fall's BOOKED! raised \$84,000, Library Luminaries raised \$79,000 the past spring and our December Festival of Trees brought in almost \$8,000. Now, with the constraints of COVID, the revenue from these events is lost and we are relying on this Annual Appeal to make up the difference. Please use the return envelope or visit gunnlibrary.org to make a tax deductible donation.

We are gratified and honored to share our recent nomination by Congresswoman Jahana Hayes for inclusion in a national award medal consideration for spring 2021. Acclaimed by residents and visitors, Gunn Memorial has held a position of importance in the Town for over a century. Always rising to meet the changing needs of patrons and constituents, the institution provides for a broad cross section of residents with diverse needs. Your kind and generous support has made that possible. Our message as an inclusive space resonates at a time when our society is strained by divisiveness and we welcome all community members. We ask for your financial support to help us continue to provide exemplary Library and Museum services to the Town of Washington and surrounding communities.

With gratitude,

Jean Chapin
Executive Director

Sal Sorce
President, Board of Trustees

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