



“Public Libraries are the heart and soul of any community.”  
—Mary McNear

March 17, 2026

Dear Library Community,

On behalf of the Clapp Memorial Library Board of Trustees, thank you for being part of the community that supports the Library. Every day, our building is a vibrant hub for reading, learning, creativity, and connection. Neighbors attend talks, borrow books, participate in story times, take classes, work remotely, tutor students, discuss books, knit or crochet, and, of course, read.

Many people are surprised to learn that while library staff are town employees, the library building itself is not town-owned nor town-maintained, and our municipal appropriation covers only about 80% of our operating budget. Community support helps bridge that gap and sustain the programs and services on which our community relies. Whether you have given before or are considering a gift for the first time, we hope you will consider supporting the Library through this year’s Annual Appeal.

This year, that support is especially critical. Due to fire code compliance issues, the Friends of Clapp Memorial Library were forced to cancel their annual April book sale, resulting in the loss of a key source of funding for library programs and operations.

At the same time, we are addressing major building needs. Our most significant upcoming project is replacing the Library’s 74 original wood windows. Historically accurate replacements with triple-pane glazing will preserve the building’s character while improving energy efficiency and reducing heating costs. The Library was awarded a \$130,000 Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund grant for this project, which requires a 1:1 match, and we are pursuing additional funding opportunities to responsibly complete this work.

While the window project is a priority, gifts to our Annual Appeal are unrestricted. Your gift today provides the flexibility to offset lost revenue, care for our historic building, and sustain the programs and services our community depends on every day.

Thank you for investing in the Clapp Memorial Library. We are deeply grateful for your support and hope to see you at the Library soon.

With sincere appreciation,

Bill McClure  
President, Board of Trustees

Cyndi Harbeson  
Library Director

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