Dear Friends,

The Clapp Memorial Library opened its doors to the public nearly 132 years ago. A generous and forward-thinking Belchertown native, John Francis Clapp, left funds to build a library and cultural center for the benefit of all townpeople. As was the intent of the Clapp family in 1887, the Library is still “as free as air and sunshine”. While the Library building remains largely unchanged, library services continually evolve. Today, we loan DVDs and audio books, e-books, digital magazines and music CDs, a tabletop telescope, a ukulele, and admission passes to 16 area museums and attractions.

Last year, the Library hosted 495 programs attended by 13,870 individuals, added 4,405 new items to our collection, and circulated 104,241 items to our cardholders. Teenagers are valued community members and were invited to Murder Mystery Evenings, Cupcake Wars, novel writing workshops, escape rooms and Painting with Bunnies (real ones). Children (496 of them!) were treated to a first-rate Summer Reading Program designed to keep them engaged and reading over the summer. So much community enrichment happens every day inside this historic building.

We are truly appreciative for the financial support we receive from the Town and the Friends of the Library for programs and services. However, the Library building is not town-owned nor town-maintained. The Library Trustees are entrusted with the care and upkeep of this historic building, with no endowment or other source of funding. We’re writing to ask you to donate to the Library’s Annual Appeal.

With your help, we have continued to maintain this architectural gem and have completed a number of essential repairs and upgrades including, most recently, the installation of a new heating system and air conditioning! Needless to say, this is a very exciting addition. We seek to continue with capital improvements in the coming year, most notably including a makeover of the Children’s Activity Room and a redesign of our side entrance.

Maintaining the physical integrity of this structure ensures continued dynamic service to you and our library community. Your tax-deductible gift helps us sustain the maintenance of this historic building. We appreciate and value your continued support as we embrace the future while preserving the past.

Sincerely yours,

Sheila McCormick, Library Director

William McClure, President, Board of Trustees

What is more important in a library than anything else – than everything else – is the fact that it exists.

—Archibald MacLeish

CLAPP MEMORIAL LIBRARY • 2019 ANNUAL APPEAL

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:

☐ $1,000 Benefactor ☐ $250 Supporter ☐ $50 Advocate
☐ $500 Investor ☐ $100 Sponsor ☐ $25 Contributor
☐ Other

Please make your check payable to Clapp Memorial Library.

Online donations may be made by visiting our Mightycause donation page at

www.mightycause.com/organization/clapp-memorial-library

MY GIFT IS:

☐ in Honor of ☐ in Memory of

(OPTIONAL) Please send acknowledgement of my gift to:

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☐ My employer has a matching gift program
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