

# TRACINGS

The Newsletter of  
The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library

Spring Issue

2025

## Nine Months In, Director Richard Tutwiler Sees Investments Paying Off

Now in his ninth month as Tracy Memorial Library's Director, Richard Tutwiler has settled in to "look from the treetops," in his words, capitalizing on the community's strengths to provide an even stronger cultural institution for New London.

Richard has seen continuing evidence of the community's valuing its library. "During my visit, I saw that this was an area where the community cares about each other and their library...I only feel that more, having been here." In the wake of Town Meeting, in which voters affirmed the Library building's needs for physical maintenance and robust programming, approving two warrant articles to fund these, Richard appreciates that "...people here want the best for their town and their library."

As he had expected, managing the Library's budget and empowering the staff to serve the community have proven to be top priorities during his tenure. Recognizing that "We must be good stewards of taxpayer dollars," Richard has focused on "meticulous management, with consistent year-in, year-out maintenance." A highly visible initiative, repairs to the Library's roof commenced the week after Town Meeting. Contractors worked on repairing and replacing the failing membrane under the slate tiles, with additional attention to the building's copper flashing. Channeling his inner Yankee, the Director seeks to "Do it right [rather than doing] it twice." The Trustees' stewardship extends to other areas in the Capital Improvements Plan to keep the building functional. As Richard wrote in the 2025 Town Report, Tracy Memorial Library is the most valuable municipal building in New London, with its

heavy foot traffic contributing to wear-and-tear that requires maintenance.

Richard has also proven sensitive to human capital, winning a step increase for many employees in the FY25 budget, in addition to their cost-of-living raises. "There are more libraries in the U.S. than there are McDonald's," he said. In a competitive market, "we need to provide a living wage for our employees."

Open 42 hours per week, Tracy Memorial Library has staffing to support circulation and reference in a "one-desk" model for those visiting the library and those using its considerable digital resources (many of which are underwritten by the Friends!). Richard reported that in-person visits continued to grow in the past year, achieving 92% of pre-pandemic levels. He reinforced that library staff continue to make all decisions in a "data-driven" mindset, "meeting existing needs and foreseeing future ones."

Once the strategic plan is adopted by the Trustees, it is expected that its short and long-term goals will inform upcoming decisions about space and programming. The Trustees are scheduled to vote on the recommendations, from consultants ReThinking Libraries, at their April meeting.

**Library Hours**

Thursday 9-8

Tuesday 9-8

Friday 9-5

Wednesday 9-5

Saturday 9-1

## ***Highlights from “Community Chat” Hosted by Richard & Asst. Director Matthew Gunby***

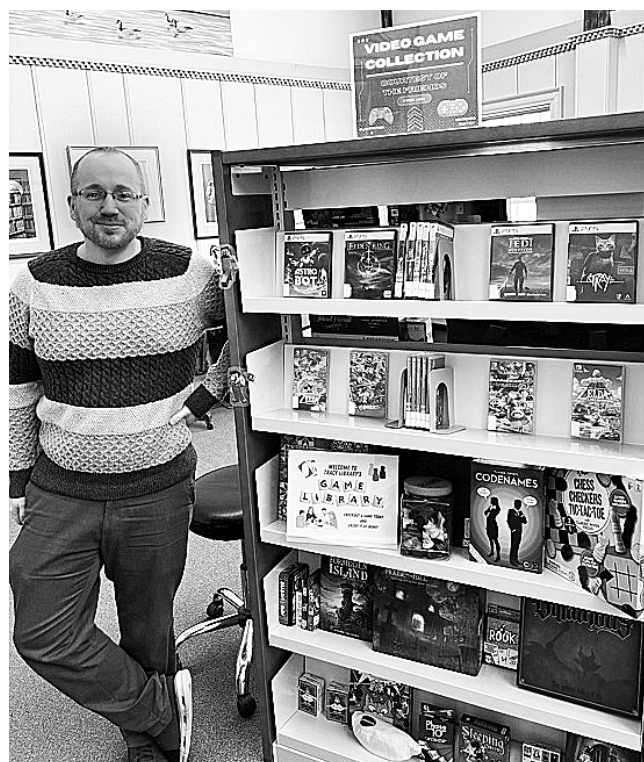
### ***Did You Know...?***

- Tracy Memorial Library is an iconic ~14,000-square-foot historical building that was originally built in 1823. It is the most valuable municipal building in New London.
- It is staffed by 4 full-time and 11 part-time staff members.
- The library contains nearly 40,000 physical items for card-holders to access and provides digital access to hundreds of thousands of items.
- Access to the library is free for residents of New London, staff & student attendees of the Kearsarge Regional School District and Colby-Sawyer College, and Town of New London employees.
- Other regional residents pay to purchase a library card as non-residents.
- In addition to weekly Storytime, the Library hosts these programs for youth:
  - Universal Yums
  - LEGO Club
  - Game Day
  - Dungeons and Dragons
- 905 young people participated in Library programs last year, including 82 in the summer reading initiative
- Summer is the busiest season at Tracy Memorial Library
- Both the Library and the Friends of Tracy Memorial Library regularly host free adult programs for the public in the Meeting Room



## ***About Richard Tutwiler***

Tracy Memorial Library welcomed our new Director, Richard Tutwiler, in July. Richard, who has a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida, comes to New Hampshire from Flagstaff, Arizona, where he served first as Head of Reference and then as the Deputy Director of City Services for the Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library. He also spent one year as the Interim Director for that system, which encompasses seven libraries, including the Grand Canyon Public Library. Prior to his time in Flagstaff, Richard served as Reference Librarian for Loudoun County Public Library in Northern Virginia. Born into a military family, Richard enjoyed living in a rich global neighborhood, including Tokyo, Hawaii, California, Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia, Texas, and Frankfurt, Germany. He enjoys board games, French cooking, horror movies, hiking, and spending time with his partner and their two rescued cats, Ike and Stanley, all of whom are excited to become a part of the New London community.

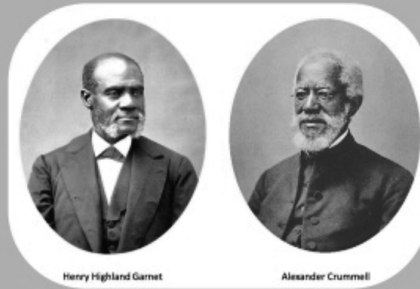


*Director Richard Tutwiler stands adjacent to the newest initiative funded by the Friends, -- a circulating video game collection. Teen engagement has increased since their addition.*

The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library invite you:

## LOCAL SPEAKERS SERIES

# Abolitionists of Noyes Academy



Henry Highland Garnet

Alexander Crummell

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

6:30 pm

Tracy Memorial Library

304 Main Street

New London, NH

Historian Dan Billin presents an illustrated lecture on the violent end of the first integrated preparatory school in the United States and the remarkable lives of Black students—including Henry Highland Garnet and Alexander Crummell—who dared attend that Canaan, N.H., school.

Please join us  
for this "NH Humanities to Go" presentation  
sponsored by Friends of TML



email [friends@tracylibrary.org](mailto:friends@tracylibrary.org) by April 22nd for a preferred seat





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**WON'T YOU BE A FRIEND?**  
**Please consider becoming a Friend today!**  
 Help us in our support of  
**Tracy Memorial Library**  
**as an outstanding library**  
**for our community!**

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**Please check applicable membership**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Fellow	\$500.00
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Please make checks payable to "Friends of Tracy Memorial Library" and mail to Friends of TML, 304 Main Street, New London, NH 03257.

The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization.

Your donation may be tax deductible!

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