

Abbott Memorial Library  
Monthly Report for February 2017

The trustees met on Wednesday February 22 to review the initial application requirements for the NextGen grant. Seeing as we don't have a firm figure yet from Barba and Wheelock, we roughly estimated the work to the exterior of the building to total approximately \$750,000. NextGen expects a sizable matching contribution to come from the community or from other grants. After some discussion it was decided to request \$500,000 from NextGen and seek \$250,000 from other sources. Good news we learned was that money already spent including the WBRC survey as well as the work on the North chimney and Barba and Wheelock's specs can all be deducted for the matching funds.

On February 3 DDAATT and the library hosted a seed and scion exchange. This is the fourth year we have hosted this popular program and we had one of the best attendances yet with about 22 people meeting.

Twelve members of the Book Club met on Wednesday, February 22 to discuss **The Battle for God** by Karen Armstrong. Armstrong believes that the rise of fundamentalism has occurred in all three of the world's major religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. She explores the mythos and logos that have traditionally gone hand in hand with all religions and explains how the loss of mythos through scientific rationalism, has resulted in the rise of the fundamentalist point of view in these three faiths. Fully half of the members felt the book was too similar to a textbook and failed to read it. The other half truly enjoyed it and found the book to be extremely informative. Next month we'll be reading **The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin**.

Liz Breault  
Librarian