

### Reference Services

- Reference Staff answered 299 general reference questions in March and reserved 161 rooms for patrons. In addition, staff helped 110 patrons with their technology needs and advised 22 patrons on their reading choices.
- Popular programs in March included the Tuesday Book Discussion Group, in which patrons discuss *Manhattan Beach*, by Jennifer Eagan, and the weekly Thursday Morning Meditation. In addition, the library hosted an author talk with Kew Kwan Lei, author of *The Girl Who Taught Herself to Fly*. For the Cookbook Club, participants made Spanish recipes from Chef Omar Allibhoy.



- On March 29, the library partnered with the Concord Land Conservation Trust, the Natural Resources Division, the Concord Pollinator Health Advisory Committee and the CCHS Green Team to present a talk on the conservation of Native Pollination Systems with Dr. Robert Gegear. The event was very popular with attendance of 90 enthusiastic participants. (Photos by Laura Mills)



### Youth Services

#### Teen Lounge

- The Teen Dungeons and Dragons group grew in membership in March, and they have begun testing out new dungeons to explore after the close of their last campaign. The Board Game Advisory Board also continues to meet weekly and recommend new board games for the library collection.

- Later in March, college-bound students and their parents learned how to navigate the college admissions process and stand out among record numbers of applicants. Program facilitators also helped participants take steps to reduce stress around the admissions process.
- Finally, thanks to the excellent teamwork between the Library and Town Facilities Departments, two brand new book displays were set up in front of the Teen Lounge!

### Children’s Library

- In March, CFPL celebrated Women’s History Month with a StoryWalk at the Main Library featuring *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13*, a biography by Helaine Becker of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson.
- We also enjoyed two visits from special guests: Socheata Yen from Pediatric Dentistry helped kids learn how best to care for their teeth, and Margaret McCandless returned for her popular Watercolor Bookmark workshop for artists of all ages.
- With the warm weather making a brief appearance toward the end of March, Beede and Books proved a popular draw this month and had record-setting attendance of 15 for storytime before kids hopped in the pool!
- We brought March to a close by making Nature Poetry Collages to be featured in local farm Gaining Ground’s Poetry Walk entitled “Poetry on the Farm.”
- The Children’s Library team has also completed a major refresh of the Children’s Nonfiction and Fiction sections!

### Circulation

#### The Circulation Team...

- Circulation staff welcomed 56 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- Staff processed 164 museum pass reservations, with the New England Aquarium being the top draw.
- Our displays featured titles on the city of Paris, Best Picture Oscar winners, and great first lines in fiction.
- Circulation staff participated in webinars about mental health, collection development, new library software and other topics related to Circulation.

### Fowler Library

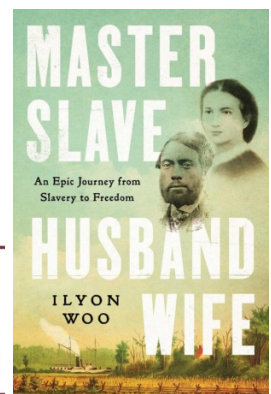


- In March, the Fowler Library ushered in spring, restocking the Seed Lending Library, now celebrating its tenth year. One seed packing party focused on flowers and vegetable seeds, donated or purchased with support from the Friends of CFPL. A special second seed packing party was for the native seed library pilot, a partnership with the Concord Land Conservation Trust, the Natural Resources Division, and the Pollinator Health Advisory.
- Further supporting sustainability, the CCHS Green Team led two programs for elementary aged children to celebrate Earth with support from library staff and the Thoreau PTG. Participants started nature journals and planted native seeds for cold stratification.
- Master knitter Lizzie Uptis taught a three class series for beginning knitters. She invited all participants to join Stitch Circle, which grows weekly in numbers and conviviality.
- Local artist Gretchen Fogelstrom began a three class acrylic painting series. Participants learned different techniques for applying paint and how to care for their tools while creating joyful flower paintings.
- Members of Afternoon Tea Book Club have taken over facilitating the popular book club with support from staff.
- Pediatric Dentistry visited to teach young patrons about dental care.
- Other regular programs for all ages continue to attract dedicated followings. As weather permits, Fowler staff have moved events outside.

### Innovation & Communications

The Innovation & Communications Team is working with the Library Corporation's insurance company to finalize policies and procedures for the Workshop makerspace opening later this year. They are also in the process of preparing new digital signs for the Library.

### Special Collections



- On March 2, Robert Shure, an expert sculptor, and conservator of sculpture, presented LIVE on Zoom from his studio about the process and technique of the American sculptor of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Daniel Chester French (1850 –1931).
- On March 4, conservators from Skylight Studios cleaned Daniel Chester French's Seated Ralph Waldo Emerson and answered questions during the process. The work involved multiple applications of a diluted, non-corrosive, and acid-free soap that will clean accumulated dirt from the surface of the marble.
- In honor of the Concord Free Public Library's 150th Anniversary, the Concord Museum, the Concord Free Public Library, and the Concord Free Public Library Corporation's William Munroe Special Collections have collaborated on a special exhibition featuring the Library's art collection on view at the Concord Museum from March 24 to

September 4, 2023. A variety of public programs exploring Concord's art and history will be presented at both the Museum and the Concord Free Public Library. Special Collections staff offered *Gallery Tours with the Curators* on Friday, March 24, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- On March 30, author Ilyon Woo discussed her new book *Master Slave Husband Wife - An Epic Journey From Slavery to Freedom*. The true story of William and Ellen Craft, a couple who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave.

### Administration and Staffing

- Layla Hariry was hired as substitute Library Assistant and will split time between circulation and Fowler.
- Vacancies for one part-time and one full-time position have been posted and applications are being evaluated.