



CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

129 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742
> 978-318-3355 > concordlibrary.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Citizen of Concord,

We are pleased to send you this Annual Report from the Concord Free Public Library Corporation for fiscal year 2016–2017.

Once again we are delighted to report an increase in our annual appeal participation in both donors and dollars. We are *extremely grateful* for this strong support of the Library since we believe it reflects donors' recognition of the Library as a significant cultural and intellectual center for people in our community. **The Library Corporation contributed over \$650,000 to the Library in FY 2016–2017** for buildings and grounds; Special Collections exhibitions, programs, and acquisitions; insurance; security; equipment; books and materials; and scholarships.

One of the highlights of Special Collections this year was the acquisition of almost 500 pages of original manuscripts by Louisa May Alcott. As the largest collection of Alcott's working manuscripts (showing her process), it will be a significant resource for scholars. In the gallery, the exhibition *Picturing Emerson: A Selection of Lifetime Portraits of Ralph Waldo Emerson* coincided with the publication of *Picturing Emerson: An Iconography* by Joel Myerson and our own Curator of Special Collections, Leslie Perrin Wilson.

We have seen significant increases in program attendance for all age groups, including adults, teens, and children. The Library is bustling with activity, and we are constantly looking for ways to accommodate more people and more programs. While people continue to use the Library in traditional ways, people are increasingly using the Library in new ways. People want social spaces as well as quiet spaces. People want more areas to meet, collaborate, and learn. Teens want more space to call their own. Families want spaces where children can engage in both quiet and lively activities. Patrons want to use a wide range of technology throughout the Library. To meet all of these needs, we are actively working on plans informed by our long-range plan and community input. We look forward to sharing our plans with you as they develop and will continue to include the town in our planning process.

A few people may still be questioning the relevance of libraries in today's world. But the vast majority understands that the role of libraries and the mission of *our* Library is perhaps more relevant and important than ever in a democratic society. It is a place for civic discourse, for quiet reflection, for active thought, for reading and writing, for gathering, for learning, and for entertainment — a hub, a forum, a commons, a sanctuary.

Wishing you a happy and fulfilling new year,

Sherry Forman Litwack
President, CFPL Corporation

Stay connected!

@CFPL_Updates

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Library Corporation Trustees from left: Lowell S. Smith, Diana Clymer, Jeffrey Adams, Cristina Coletta Blau, Richard Briggs, Jr., Sherry F. Litwack, O. Mario Favorito, and Frederick H. Lovejoy, Jr.

Support for the Library is support for the community. Your generosity to the Concord Free Public Library Corporation is an affirmation that CFPL is critical to the lives of all Concordians. As stewards for the Library, the Library Corporation spends over \$650,000 per year to preserve, maintain and improve both the Main Library and the Fowler branch. Gifts to the Annual Fund directly support the purchase of new books, updates to technology, Special Collections, exhibits, the preservation and care of the buildings and grounds, scholarships and more.

Williams Scholarships

As a result of a generous bequest by Charles H.S. Williams, the Library Corporation was again able to offer four local students scholarships in the amount of \$2750 each for the 2017/2018 academic year. We are proud to support Timothy Collins, Dennison University; Kayleen Honan, Syracuse University; Elanna Honan, Boston University; and Helen Wargelin, Northwestern University.

We encourage high school seniors who have been Concord residents for at least two years prior to the date of their application AND who are intending to pursue further study in the Arts after graduation to consider applying for the scholarship in the spring. Please email meckel@minlib.net for more information.

> **CFPL STAFF READING PICK** <
The Stars Are Fire by Anita Shreve
adult historical fiction

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: New Opportunities for Library Patrons

Over the past year, trustees, staff, community members, and consulting experts have worked together to plan for a much needed expansion and renovation of the Main Library building. Right now, our ability to meet patrons' needs is considerably constrained by our facility. We desperately need more space for services, programming, and community gatherings. We envision a Library that can support the activities and interests of future generations as well.

The Library plays a vital role as the cultural and intellectual center in the heart of our community. This project aims to provide an even more dynamic place for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to gather, learn, explore, create, share ideas and build community together.

The plan incorporates the property at 151 Main Street, purchased in 2013 by the Library Corporation, and updates key areas of the Main Library—with an emphasis on sustainability. Of course, beloved historic rooms and alcoves would be preserved while new memorable spaces are created.

> **CFPL STAFF READING PICK** <
Spill Zone by Scott Westerfeld
young adult fiction

Key elements of the plan include: the Children's Library, a kid-friendly space for activities and quiet time, with outdoor access and family restrooms; new meeting rooms for local groups and organizations; a large, flexible-use space for Library programs and collaboration during open times and after-hours; a teen zone designed to accommodate hanging out, homework, and team projects; the Hub, a central location for finding information and new materials; the Commons, where patrons can enjoy coffee and conversation, with views of the lawn and the Children's Library; and expanded space for Special Collections and research, enhancing access to historical town documents and artifacts that represent one of the nation's most comprehensive community archives—a resource for both scholars and local residents.

Renovation also would enable the relocation of currently inaccessible books, and improve the HVAC system. In addition, we are exploring technological enhancements to support patrons on-site and online—for example, mobile devices for use throughout the Library, interactive introductions to the collections, or podcasts featuring our guest speakers.

Libraries today play a critical role as bulwarks of democracy, discourse, and community life. This initiative will ensure that CFPL can continue to sustain our town's civic life for generations to come.

We invite you to imagine the possibilities, inquire about our progress, and stay tuned for more updates!

Library Director's Report

2016–2017 brought many successes for the Concord Free Public Library (CFPL). Among the year's highlights include the launch of a new website with responsive design at concordlibrary.org. Clear navigational features of the site facilitate access to the growing collection of digital media and training resources, as well as historical documents pertaining to Concord. The 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth resulted in a record-breaking 250+ attendees at the exhibition opening of "Concord, which is my Rome": *Henry Thoreau and His Home Town*. During the spring, Library staff led book discussions and programs based on Thoreau's essay *Walking*. Families marked the anniversary with a literary train trip between Concord and Fitchburg complete with blackberry ice cream, a Story Walk, and nature crafts. This special event was made possible by collaboration between CFPL, Fitchburg Public Library, Concord Museum, and the Mass Center for the Book.



Veronica Robles concert on the lawn.



Book signing with author Grace Lin (2016 Leslie Riedel Memorial lecturer).

Programming for children remains among one of the Library's most important roles and participation in the 2017 "Build a Better World" summer reading program increased with 321 children reading 223,846 minutes over the course of the summer. The creative and dedicated children's librarians also offered a fall series entitled, "101 Picture Books CFPL Loves" for ages birth to 5 years with special story times featuring the titles. Teen attendance at the Library remains high due in part to a new weekly Girls Who Code club for girls in grades 6 -12, which strives to close the gender gap in technology, while teaching computing skills. In response to an interest by parents in coding opportunities for younger children, CFPL launched "Tech Tuesdays" on early release days with instructors from Empow Studios offering workshops on topics from Lego robotics to 3D design skills. Other popular programs have included monthly cookbook, literary, and mystery book discussions.

CFPL also enhanced its technology offerings through the purchase of a new 3D printer, additional self-checkout machines with an e-commerce payment option and new laptops for borrowing within the Library. On a snowy April 1st CFPL hosted a Technology Fair which 100+ residents attended to learn more about wireless hotspots, telescopes, 3D printer, and STEAM resources as well as databases and downloadable and streaming media. This fall a technology consultant assisted us by leading focus groups related to technology planning to help inform future initiatives and training opportunities.

Partnership with the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle has enabled the Library to support voter education by providing a display of historic materials about the League's work over time in addition to a table of information about the Town Warrant, proposed budget, and voter guidelines. Plans are underway to offer a series of educational talks to further support awareness in time for the 2018 Concord Town Meeting.

We are fortunate to have an exceptional staff and dedicated volunteers, who we honored at a spring volunteer appreciation event. During the past year we welcomed Barbara Gugliuzza as Head of Reference and Kim Tolson as Branch Librarian, who have both participated in the MPA Leadership Development Series. Thanks to support from the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, colleagues were able to attend the Massachusetts Library Association Conference, New England Library Association Conference, the American Library Association Conference, BookExpo and other trainings. Library Assistants Irene Cunningham and Stacey Charbonneau received certificates of achievement by the MLA Paraprofessional Association, and several staff members are exploring graduate programs in Library Science. All are seeking new ways to expand and improve Library services to the Concord community.

Kerry E. Cronin, Library Director



3D printer workshop for children.

> CFPL STAFF <
READING PICK
Colette's Lost Pet
by Isabelle Arsenault
children's fiction



The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library is a nonprofit organization that works to serve the Library and the community in a number of ways.

- > We fund book and media purchases, museum passes, special programs, and Library staff professional development.
- > We develop and present free programs at the Library, including concerts, readings, and film series.
- > We develop and present free programs at the Library for children and youth.
- > We conduct community outreach that includes providing donated books to Open Table and Concord Prison Outreach and other organizations.

To learn more, or to join the Friends, pick up a brochure at the Library or visit us online: concordlibrary.org/about/how-we-work/

Our gifts and programs are funded through memberships, sales of donated books, and sales of *Historic Concord*, a book published by the Friends. The Friends' Holiday and June book sales are our biggest sources of revenue, and they're also much-loved community events. The Holiday Sale in December 2016 raised more than \$10,000 and the June 2017 Book Sale on the lawn raised \$23,421.00 – both record-breaking! The heart and soul of this operation is a team of over a dozen enthusiastic volunteers who sort the many volumes donated to the Friends each year and prepare them for the book sales. If you have books you'd like to donate, see the reference librarian at the Main Library.

The Next Chapter gathered together on April 1 to enjoy cocktails and conversation in the CFPL Rotunda. *The Next Chapter's* mission is to engage a community of Library enthusiasts in a broad range of stewardship activities at the Library. The supporters will gather 3–4 times a year for free meet-ups in the Library Rotunda, providing a chance for individuals who are committed to supporting the Concord community to connect and enjoy a night of great conversation. To learn more, email Marcy at meckel@minlib.net.

In 2016 we presented the Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History to Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, an American historian of early America and the history of women and a professor at Harvard University. She is also the author of *Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History*.

We sponsor the Sing-a-long with Ed Morgan programs, CCHS Student Study Day, and the Author Series. Our "Friday Flicks at Fowler" film series shows a variety of perspectives and ideas from around the world. We sponsor several programs in the Concord Festival of Authors.

In the winter of 2017 "Music from the Library" celebrated its 20th anniversary season of presenting world class artists in the intimate acoustics in the Main Library Rotunda. Once again, we welcomed capacity audiences to our free concerts. The season opened in February with an extraordinary concert by the Borromeo String Quartet, followed by a reception hosted by Rebecca Purcell, to whom we extend special thanks. Anastasia Seifetdinova gave an exquisite piano recital in March and the season concluded in a jazzy way in April with the Eric Hofbauer Quintet, whose performance was designated the Hans Poppel concert in honor of one of our founding Music Committee members. Special thanks to Robert Levers, who designed the 20th anniversary logo, in addition to designing the program booklet covers, and to the other members of the music committee, Marilyn Bone Kloss, Marcia Marlow, and Sally Sanford. Our thanks also to the entire Library staff who assist these concerts in so many ways and especially to Warner Wood, who has so ably helped us transform the Rotunda into a concert space and return it back to proper form afterwards for 20 years. We look forward to another great season in 2018.

The "Poetry at the Library" series hosted Josh Bell, author of *Alamo Theory* and *No Planets Strike*; three-term U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky who read from his newest book of poems, *At the Foundling Hospital*; and Poet-translator Eleanor Goodman who read her own poems and her award-winning translations of contemporary Chinese poets.





SPECIAL COLLECTIONS REPORT

In 2016–2017, the staff of the William Munroe Special Collections designed, prepared, installed, publicized, and planned accompanying programs for two major gallery exhibitions: *Picturing Emerson* (March–May 2017) and “*Concord, which is my Rome*”: *Henry Thoreau and His Home Town* (July–October 2017). The former celebrated the publication of a comprehensive Emerson iconography by Joel Myerson and CFPL curator Leslie Perrin Wilson. Margaret Emerson Bancroft, Myerson, and Wilson all spoke at the opening on March 24. Wilson presented three curator’s gallery talks during the run of the exhibition, and, in April, Meghan Murray (Emerson Umbrella artist-in-residence) delivered a related talk on the challenges and rewards of portraiture.



Leslie Wilson, Curator of the William Munroe Special Collections at CFPL, enjoys a viewing of the Alcott manuscripts with Addison Boger, Jacob and Daniel Edelman and Max Currie.

The Library Corporation recently acquired ninety-five leaves of *Eight Cousins* (first published as a book by Roberts Brothers in 1875) and four hundred leaves of *Under the Lilacs* (published in book form in 1878). Both titles were originally serialized in *St. Nicholas Magazine* and both manuscripts bear markings—including many relating to textual changes by the author—connected to their first appearance in that periodical. Because Alcott famously directed her publishers to destroy her manuscripts, this purchase by the Library Corporation for the William Munroe Special Collections represents the largest surviving body anywhere of Alcott’s working manuscripts.

The Thoreau bicentennial exhibition opened in July with a gala reception and a substantive lecture by Thoreau scholar and biographer Laura Dassow Walls.

From July into September of 2016, Wilson conducted the final four of five public gallery tours to accompany the 2016 Wyeth/*Men of Concord* exhibition (part of a collaboration with the Concord Museum). She also led several private tours for scheduled groups, including one for the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering in July 2016. The Library’s final Wyeth program was a talk by artist and illustrator Ilse Plume, “Art Inspired, Art Commissioned.”

Staff Assistant Constance Manoli-Skocay assembled several well-received displays for the Special Collections and Main Library lobby showcases, highlighting a variety of topics: national park photographs by Herbert Wendell Gleason, in celebration of the national park centennial; the work of the Concord Dance Hostess Committee during World War II; winter images of Concord; photographs of Bush (the Emerson house on the Cambridge Turnpike), to accompany the Emerson portraits exhibition in the gallery; Flynn-Kennedy letters, in honor of the centennial of the birth of John F. Kennedy; and Concord town meeting, at the request of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. She also participated in the juried process through which area artists are booked for month-long slots when the gallery is not required for Special Collections exhibitions. Project Archivist Janaya Kizzie prepared a display of West Concord photographs and presented a public program on postcards in October.

The department offered a range of freestanding Concord-related programs: a presentation on Thoreau pencils by Henrik Otterberg and Feng-I Tai; a book launch for *Thoreau at 200*, in collaboration with the Thoreau Society; a slide lecture on Concord barns and stone walls by local resident Pierce Browne; and a lecture by Richard Higgins on his book *Thoreau and the Language of Trees*. In addition, staff delivered presentations to visiting classes and organizations including: Concord Academy history students; an NEH-funded teachers’ seminar for college and community college teachers; “Rivers and Revolutions” students from CCHS; the CCACE Concord history and guides class; visiting German college students taking part in a Walden Woods Project program; and the Old Concord Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In May, Leslie Wilson spoke to the Louisa May Alcott Society at the American Literature Association conference in Boston.

We were fortunate that when long-time Special Collections Technical Assistant Robert C. Hall left CFPL late in 2016, Janaya Kizzie was able to take over his essential digital responsibilities, although this reduced the amount of time she could devote to her third round of archival processing work

THOREAU BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

In celebration of Henry David Thoreau’s two hundredth birthday this past July 12, Special Collections staff assembled “*Concord, which is my Rome*”: *Henry Thoreau and His Home Town*, a gallery exhibition of one hundred and fifty items drawn entirely from the Library’s collections in exploration of Thoreau’s multi-faceted relationship with Concord. The display, which formally opened on July 14 and ran through October 30, showcased Thoreau’s life and work within the context of his home town through manuscripts, documents, letters, photographs, maps, surveys, engravings, record and account books, artwork, and artifacts. Thanks to generous donations by Judith and Matthew Fichtenbaum, the Middlesex Savings Bank, and the Cambridge Trust Company, the Library Corporation published a handsome accompanying exhibition catalog distributed to visitors as a keepsake of this important anniversary.

The July 14 exhibition opening featured an elegant reception, music from the Thoreau family flute books performed by Judith Sherry Braude and Tricia Craig, and a stellar lecture—“Our True Paradise: Thoreau and the Ecstasy of the Commons”—by scholar Laura Dassow Walls (William P. and Hazel B. White Professor of English, University of Notre Dame), whose new biography of Thoreau has been glowingly reviewed. (Professor Walls’s lecture is accessible via the YouTube icon on the home page of concordlibrary.org.) The impressive crowd included many participants in the 2017 Thoreau Society Annual Gathering.

(funded by the Library Corporation). Before she departed at the end of June, she was able to complete the organization, arrangement, and description of the Ada Shepard Papers and W. Barksdale Maynard Papers. The finding aids for these collections are now accessible on the Library website. Additional smaller processing and descriptive projects were undertaken by four interns (Jennifer Richards, Kathryn Marchak-Wansor, Jessica Hinson-Williams, and Brianne Comeau) from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science archival degree program.

Research use of the department’s holdings was, as always, vigorous. Staff was pleased to see the results of access to our collections come to fruition in the publication of several important new pieces of scholarship, including Laura Dassow Walls’s *Henry David Thoreau: A Life*, Robert Thorson’s *The Boatman, Thoreau at 200*, and *Henry David Thoreau in Context* (to which Leslie Wilson contributed an essay on Thoreau and Concord).

Four additional lectures and four public gallery tours completed the exhibition-related programming. The lectures were all delivered by scholars currently engaged in significant work on Thoreau. Elizabeth Hall Witherell (Editor-in-Chief, the *Thoreau Edition*) spoke on September 16 on “I think I could write a poem to be called Concord: Thoreau Expresses the Inexpressible”; Robert Thorson (Professor of Geology, University of Connecticut) on September 23 on “*The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau’s River Years*”; Robert A. Gross, Draper Professor of Early American History, Emeritus, University of Connecticut) on October 7 on “‘The Nick of Time’: Coming of Age in Thoreau’s Concord”; and Robert N. Hudspeth (Research Professor at the Claremont Graduate University, Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Redlands, and editor of *The Correspondence of Henry D. Thoreau*) on October 14 on “Thoreau’s Concord in His Correspondence.” Curator Leslie Perrin Wilson’s gallery tours on August 16, September 9, September 28, and October 2 were well-attended.

Public response to the exhibition was gratifying. Visitors to the Library’s gallery included many Thoreau admirers for whom the opportunity to see manuscripts in his hand and artifacts of his life formed part of a moving pilgrimage experience.

> CFPL STAFF READING PICK <

Henry David Thoreau: a Life
by Laura Dassow Walls
adult non-fiction

Other departmental activities for the year included arranging and facilitating the capture through the Concord Oral History Program of a panel discussion by five Concord Olympic medalists, and participation in creating an audio tour of selected works of art from the library collection and of an accompanying web-accessible version and printed brochure of the tour. And, of course, the collections continued to grow through gift and purchase.

Even as Special Collections staff anticipated the opening of our exhibition celebrating Henry Thoreau’s two hundredth birthday, we looked forward to the spring 2018 installation of a display to showcase a recent gift of sketchbooks and letters by Ada Shepard, governess to the Hawthorne children in 1858 and 1859, while the Hawthorne family lived in Italy. Check in on the progress by visiting concordlibrary.org.

The Library Corporation

A MAINSTAY OF THE LIBRARY

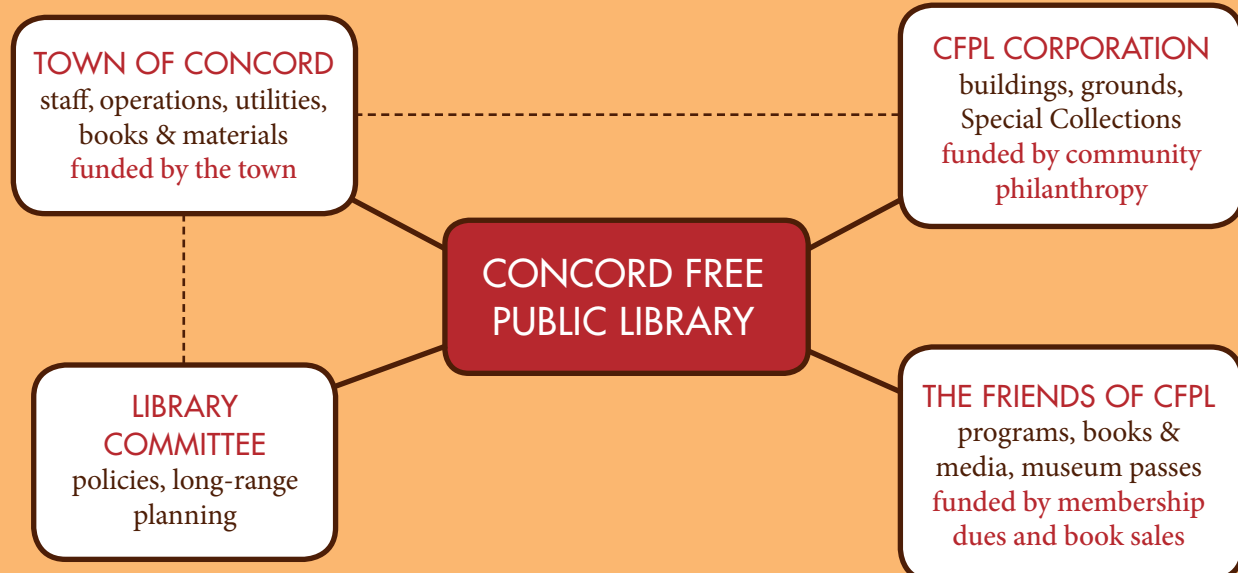
The generosity of Concord residents created, and continues to sustain, the nonprofit Concord Free Public Library Corporation. The Corporation is a central pillar of the Library, complementing the Town's budget for operations and the Friends' contribution of programming and materials. Corporation Trustees hold responsibility for the unique premises and special collections that distinguish the Library.

- > **We are guardians.**
With oversight for preservation and maintenance, we ensure that the Library's historic structures will grace and serve the community for generations to come.
- > **We are trailblazers.**
Spearheading facility expansion and innovation—from new spaces to sustainable systems—we meet evolving needs and forge a vibrant future for the Library.
- > **We are conservators.**
Plants, lawn, benches, or the shade of a sheltering tree on a summer day—these settings and amenities, which we support, enhance the patron experience.
- > **We are champions of Concord's heritage.**
Our commitment to cultivating and protecting the Library's Special Collections undergirds a world-class repository of New England culture.

We also contribute to initiatives such as book acquisitions and special events. Critically, our flexible resources and process enable the Library to grasp significant opportunities. For example, our timely acquisition of property adjacent to the Main Library laid the foundation for much needed expansion. The Corporation plays a vital role in fulfilling Concord's aspirations for its Library.

CFPL: HOW WE WORK

A productive partnership advances the Library's work. The Town of Concord allocates municipal funding for its operation budget, including staff, utilities, and books and materials. Dependent entirely on private philanthropic support from the community, the nonprofit Concord Free Public Library Corporation owns and oversees the buildings, grounds, and Special Collections. The Library Corporation also raises and manages the endowment and the Annual Fund—providing essential funding to augment the operating budget.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to donors at every level, all of whom make it possible for The Concord Free Public Library to continue providing essential services to our community. This list recognizes gifts and pledges in support of the Concord Free Public Library Corporation from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Thank you!

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Byron and Kelvey Woodman
John and Beverly Woodward
TsueyRong Wu
Shaw and Dr. Louise Yang
Hon Hoi and Barbara Homer Yee
Kris and Carol Yerby
Michael and Roxanne Zak
David and Miriam Zarchan
Chip and Margaret Ziering
Steven and Dale Zippin

Special Collections Gifts

FINANCIAL GIFTS:
Matthew and Judith Fichtenbaum (Thoreau catalog)
Middlesex Savings Bank (Thoreau catalog)
Cambridge Trust (Thoreau catalog)
Reed and Barbara Anthony
Robert Derry
John and Johanna Boynton
Old Concord Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
Louisa May Alcott Society

GIFTS OF MATERIALS:
Elizabeth R. Wilson (Let's Face It materials)
Susan Dee and Sherry Dee Mobley (Civil War letters)
Susan Dee (Dee family papers; also, Friends of Sleepy Hollow materials)
Maris Delano (Sterling Delano papers)
Peter and Cristina Coletta Blau (two Mary Pope paintings)
David Wood (first edition of Louisa May Alcott's *Under the Lilacs*)
Barbara Wheeler Lajeunesse (Wheeler family photographs--farming at Nine Acre Corner)
Susan Koval (composite of 19th-century Concord portrait photographs)
Helen R. Cook and Abigail Kazanowski (Locke-Davis archive, nineteenth and twentieth centuries)
Helen R. Cook (Country Store of Concord materials)
Gerald Lauderdale (bound issues of *Gleason's Pictorial*, 1852)
Pierce Browne (paper on Hepburn House; photographs)
Ben Chaset (items relating to 1623 Main Street, Concord)
Barbara D. Bergemann (two nineteenth-century envelopes, relating to Ephraim and Mrs. Bull)
Marjorie Brett (Edward Jarvis Bartlett and related papers)

We strive to make this list as accurate as possible, please accept our apologies for any mistakes. You can email updates to meckel@minilib.net.

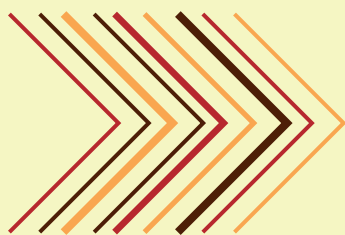
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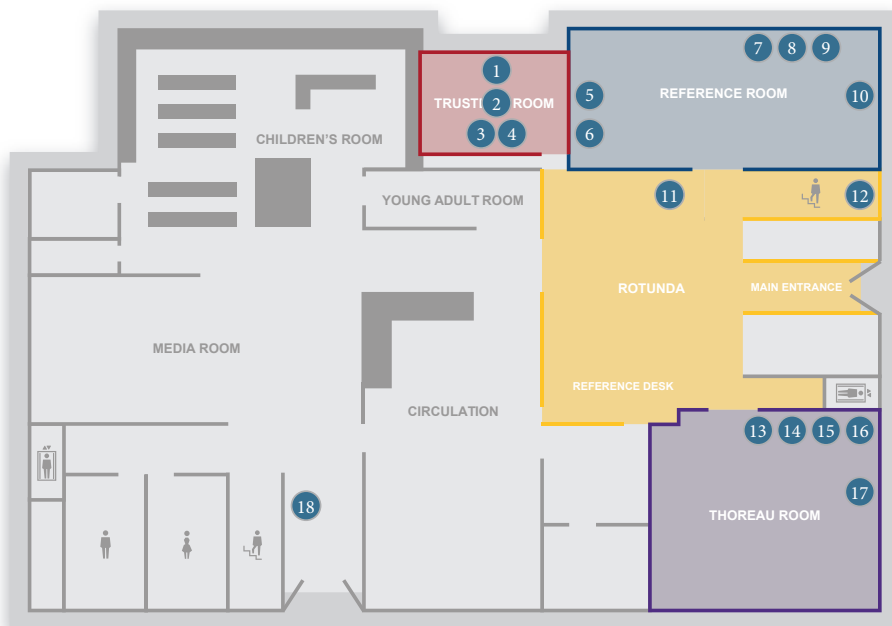


CFPL ART TOUR

Selected Artwork from
the William Munroe
Special Collections

The William Munroe Special Collections have grown into the most comprehensive archive of primary and secondary source material related to Concord history, life, landscape, literature, people, and influence from 1635 to the present day. Special Collections officially began with the founding of the Concord Free Public Library in 1873 and the far-sighted request of the Library Committee for citizens to donate material of local significance to ensure “an appropriate gift of the present generation to posterity.”

The Library Corporation is proud to announce that an art tour has been launched on concordlibrary.org to showcase 18 unique pieces of art that adorn the walls on the first level of the Library. This tour allows users to hear audio descriptions of each selected piece of art. A printed map is available to use during the walking tour.



SUDBURY ROAD

