Dear Citizen of Concord,

We are pleased to send you this Annual Report from the Concord Free Public Library Corporation for fiscal year 2015-2016.

It has been a year of growth for the Library. The results of our Annual Appeal were 10% higher than our goal and we saw an increase in both dollar amount and number of donors. We are extremely grateful for this strong support of the Library since we believe it reflects donors’ perception of the Library as a significant cultural and intellectual center for people in our community.

We have seen significant increases in program attendance for all age groups, including adults, young adults, and children. The Library is buzzing with activity, and we are bursting at the seams. While people continue to use the Library in traditional ways, people are increasingly using the Library in new ways as well.

The Library Corporation contributed over $600,000 to the Library in FY 2015-2016 for buildings and grounds; special collections exhibits, programs, and acquisitions; insurance; security; equipment; scholarships; and books and materials.

Our landmark collaboration with the Concord Museum on the Wyeth exhibitions was a smashing success no matter how you measure it. Having two significant Concord institutions partner in this way shined a light on our community and highlighted the extraordinary resources we have in our town. Of course, we are extremely grateful for the Library’s buzz, and we encourage you to enjoy them.

Some people question the relevance of libraries in today’s world. To the contrary, the role of libraries and the mission of our Library is as relevant and important as ever in a democratic society, eloquently expressed in John Palfrey’s book, *Library and the Republic of Knowledge*. It is a joy to be able to help support the preservation and interpretation of the collections.

Warmest wishes,

Sherry Forman Litwack
President, CFPL Corporation

Two benches were dedicated in memory of library staff members who passed away. The first was dedicated by her family for Claire Perdue, a beloved children’s librarian at CFPL. The second was dedicated by family and friends for Martha Proctor, a cherished member of our community. These lovely tributes beckon passersby to sit and reflect, enjoy the weather, or read a book. We are so grateful to be the recipients of these gifts.

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**President’s Message**

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**EXCEPTIONAL BOOKS THIS YEAR**

**Fiction**

- *My Name Is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout
- *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson
- *The Girls* by Emma Cline
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

**Non-Fiction**

- *Life Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism* by Ron Suskind
- *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi
- *The Gene: An Intimate History* by Siddhartha Mukherjee
- *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World* by Andrea Wulf

**Scholarships**

The Library Corporation was able to once again offer scholarships to four Concord residents studying the arts. These scholarships are possible as a result of a generous bequest by Charles H.S. Williams. Each year, the Library identifies qualified candidates for the scholarships through collaboration with the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund. For the 2016/2017 academic year, the Corporation will grant scholarships in the amount of $2750, as follows: Meghan Garvey, Muhlenberg College; Timothy Collins, Dennison University; Elanna Honan, Boston University; and Helen Wargelin, Northwestern University.

The Library Corporation is proud to support these young people as they pursue their studies. We encourage high school seniors who reside in Concord or attend secondary school in Concord AND who are intending to pursue further study in the Arts after graduation to consider applying for the scholarship in the spring. Please visit the CC Scholarship Fund website for further information.

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**Why I give to the Library**

*Having gratefully utilized the library’s resources whether looking for current fiction or doing historical research, it is a joy to be able to help support the preservation and interpretation of the collections.*

Judith Fichtenbaum

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**Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google**


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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
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- *The Girls* by Emma Cline
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**CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION**

129 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742
978-318-3355 • concordlibrary.org
The Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) continues to thrive as we deliver programs and services in support of community interests and mission fulfillment. The past year’s accomplishments include: the launch of a new logo and more consistent branding for library programs and services; increased collaboration with local organizations; and expanded programs for all ages, including more hands-on learning opportunities. Through the Full STEAM Ahead Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant, children participated in a Scarecrow Festival where they learned about the science and technology skills utilized by Town occupations; created imaginative fairy gardens; and explored the growing process through the raised garden beds at the Sudbury Road entrance. Building on the success of this program, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has awarded CFPL a $7,500 LSTA grant to expand the library’s role as an educational play space for preschoolers.

In April, CFPL launched the exhibition, “From Thoreau’s Seasons to Men of Concord: N.C. Wyeth Inspired”, which ran concurrently with an exhibition at the Concord Museum of the 12 original panels created for the book by artist N.C. Wyeth. This collaboration was very meaningful for both organizations and drew in guests from a wide geographic area. Over the year, CFPL enjoyed additional community collaborations with the Concord Recreation Department, Umbrella Community Arts Center, the Rotary Club of Concord, and Concord’s public and private schools.

Other popular programs included: a talk with John Palfrey, author of BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google; a new cookbook club where participants share and discuss their creations; a successful community reads series based on The Martian by Andy Weir; and a meditation/relaxation series in the Transcendental Alcove. CFPL also hosted a very successful summer reading series with Tai Chi on the lawn; summer concerts; a literary walk to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery with historian Jayne Gordon; and a panel discussion with Concord Olympians, moderated by Boston Globe Senior Sports Writer Kevin Paul Dupont, which honored Renee Garrelick’s work as founder of the Concord Oral History Program. Exhibition opportunities have been expanded to include Thoreau’s Seasons: N.C. Wyeth Inspired, Lissa & Carter Winstanley.

In 2015 we presented the annual Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History to Robert Dallek, an acclaimed historian of the American presidency and author of a landmark biography of President John F. Kennedy, An Unfinished Life. Our gifts and programs are funded through memberships, sales of donated books, and sales of Historic Concord, a book published by the Friends. Books are for sale every day on the Friends Book Sale shelves at the Main and Fowler Libraries.

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library is a nonprofit organization of more than 1,200 members. We serve the Library and the community in a number of ways:

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

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Special Collections Report

For the William Munroe Special Collections, much of 2015/2016 was devoted to gallery exhibitions and related programming. The formal opening of "The Reality Which Surround Us": Thoreau’s Landscape in Survey, Text, and Image was celebrated on October 16, 2015. More than one hundred guests enjoyed a festive reception, the performance of piano and vocal music from the Library’s collection of Sophia Thoreau’s sheet music, and a lecture by geologist, author, and academic Robert M. Thorson.

Beginning in April 2016, the exhibition “From Thoreau’s Seasons to Men of Concord: N. C. Wyeth Inspired” — two years in the making as part of a collaboration with the Concord Museum — drew unprecedented publicity and foot traffic to the Art Gallery. It provided opportunity to design a rich series of accompanying programs, and to build upon the CFPL’s relationship with a sister Concord institution.

Staff Assistant Constance Manoli-Skocay facilitated meetings of the art jury responsible for selecting work to fill the gallery during times when Special Collections was not using the space. She also researched and installed a series of engaging small displays in the foyer of 129 Main Street, outside Special Collections, and at the Fowler branch. In addition, Project Archivist Janaya Kizzie planned an exhibit of West Concord postcards. This exhibit formed the cornerstone to a project to digitize the Concord Postcard Collection. Along with the Gourgas family papers, the Robbins-Conover-Mills documentation of the history and use of Herbert Wendell Gleason’s photographic negatives, and addenda to the records of the Kalmia Woods Corporation, this is one of four collections that Janaya Kizzie processed this year. These special projects were funded by appropriators by the Library Corporation to the Town of Concord.

In addition to planning events related to our two major projects on the Special Collections pages of concordlibrary.org, Joshua Hall, Special Collections’ Technical Services Associate, worked together to create a series of Concord Postcard Collection webpages [http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollec/postcards/index.html] that acts both as a research tool and an exhibit. Each page is easy to use and accessible by most devices, while providing the level of detail that invites and enriches research and exploration. Most importantly, the public is able to learn about Concord’s history in a relatable, visually appealing format.

Why I give to the Library

I never cease to be amazed at what a great treasure is the Concord Free Public Library. Special Collections is a first-rate archive whose rich resources I have been exploring for the last four decades in my academic career. The general collection is spectacular in its offerings of current literature and nonfiction; and now we can bring our grandchildren to the children’s room, as we once did our sons and daughters. Add to this the many talks, poetry readings, concerts, and exhibits! We are so lucky to have such an extraordinary cultural resource so close at hand and at the heart of the community.

Robert A. Gross

Digitizing the Concord Postcard Collection

The Library’s Concord Postcard Collection, a long-hidden part of the William Munroe Special Collections, has taken center stage following a six-month digitization and processing project. A small collection in size, it would fit easily into a couple of shoeboxes, the postcard collection covers over a century of Concord history in images and brief but heartfelt letters to friends and family. Among the many images of Concord in the collection, there are rare photographs of buildings no longer extant, famous residents, and moments in town history thought undocumented. Now in digital form, the collection of over 850 postcards brings an ephemeral aspect of Concord life to the world.

Like Instagram and Twitter today, postcards were a favored way to send brief messages and share pleasing images. Innovated by the German printing industry in the 1860s, the picture postcard gained popularity in the United States in 1893. Concord’s appeal as an idyllic landscape and historic destination led to the creation of postcards by printers and photographers from around the world. Many of these postcards made their way to Special Collections over the years, resulting in a compendium of engaging historical imagery of the town.

Project Archivist Janaya Kizzie began the complex process of making the collection accessible in the fall of 2015. Kizzie had to develop a plan, scan hundreds of images, match the images to the data that would make the images searchable, and mount them on the library website. Kizzie and Robert Hall, Special Collections’ Technical Services Associate, worked together to create a series of Concord Postcard Collection webpages [http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollec/postcards/index.html] that acts both as a research tool and an exhibit. Each page is easy to use and accessible by most devices, while providing the level of detail that invites and enriches research and exploration. Most importantly, the public is able to learn about Concord’s history in a relatable, visually appealing format.
The Annual Fund

As stewards of the Library, the Library Corporation owns the buildings, grounds, and special collections and is responsible for preserving, maintaining, protecting, and improving these invaluable town assets. Your gift to the Annual Fund supports the Library Corporation in this important mission.

Why I give to the Library

Concord is a town with many treasures — historic, literary, architectural, and natural resources. For me the greatest treasure is the Concord Free Public Library so that our employees may benefit from having access to a world class library.

Byron E. Woodman, Jr.

Why I give to the Library

The Monument Group Companies choose to support the Concord Free Public Library so that our employees may benefit from having access to a world class library.

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Byron E. Woodman, Jr.
Concord Free Public Library Corporation
129 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742

Concord Resident
Concord, MA 01742

CFPL by the numbers

3.43% increase in total attendance at the Library
25% increase in adult program attendance
15% increase in teen program attendance
110% increase in attendance at the Library
43% increase in eBook holdings
27% increase in downloadable audio holdings
29% increase in circulation of eBooks for adults
52% increase in the circulation of downloadable/streaming films
11% increase in wireless sessions

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The Minuteman Library Network has just launched a new free mobile App for iOS and Android devices, which makes using the library easier than ever! Look for Minuteman Library Network in the App Store and Google Play.

WHAT’S NEW?
New books and materials are added to the library collections daily. Scan this QR code to view our newest arrivals in real time including New York Times Bestsellers.