

Director's Report

April 2025

Reference Services

- Reference answered 339 reference questions, booked 141 meeting rooms, assisted 30 patrons with technology, and advised six patrons on reading choices. Three patrons used the Library's notary service.
- Kate created a display of poetry books for National Poetry Month, while Barbara created a display in honor of Concord250.
- The Tuesday book discussion group discussed Paul Revere's Ride, by David Hackett Fischer, to celebrate Concord250. Meanwhile, the Cookbook Club made delicious recipes from two Ina Garten cookbooks. Other popular programs included the monthly boardgaming group, led by volunteer Matt Ryan, as well as Thursday Morning Meditation with Lara Wilson and a special Earth Day "Walk for Well Being" with Jacob Milendorf. The library will co-host a celebration of Shakespeare's birthday with The World's a Stage Players in the Goodwin Forum on April 30.
- Reference staff attended training for the new Minuteman Library App. In addition, staff helped at the Ken Burns Film Preview event on April 18 and at the Concord250 call center on April 19.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 3 programs in April with 25 attendees. The programming break this month left many teens requesting more of their old favorite consistent programming on the busier Wednesdays and Tuesdays.
- Teen added approximately 200 new manga books to our collection. They include replacements and current volumes for our existing titles as well as 20 brand new titles.
- Teen has been working on new training documents for volunteer shelveers. The new documents include new maps of shelving locations, visuals to aid in spine label identification, and best practices for communicating with library staff.



Children's Library

- Stuffed Animal Sleepover-CFPL staffer Tracy hosted our first Stuffed Animal Sleepover! Twenty young patrons brought a stuffed animal friend (doll/toy) to the library for an unforgettable night of adventure! Toys visited all over the library: Special Collections, the Workshop, Emerson in the rotunda and more. Each child received a personalized book with pictures of their stuffed animal's visit.



- Author's Visit-Shidan Youssefian, the author of the graphic novel series "Life Really Socks!" came for a visit. He taught us about the process of creating graphic novels and then led us in a drawing activity.
- Decibels Foundation-Jill Maxwell came to talk about the work of The Decibels Foundation, helping families with children suffering from limited hearing or complete hearing loss. We read books about sound vibrations, played kazoos and learned some American Sign Language.
- Minuteman Technical High School-Liberty and Lincoln, students at Minuteman Technical High School came to visit and talk about being a plumber. Liberty, studying early childhood education helped Lincoln prepare for storytime. Lincoln, who is studying to be a plumber, read "Curious George: Plumber's Helper".

Circulation

- A total of 22,294 items both in print and digital circulated at both branches from April 1–April 28.
- Circulation staff participated in a training session for the new library app from Minuteman Library Network – Minuteman Mobile
- Themes for corridor displays for April were National Library Week which was curated by Danielle. Karen from Youth Services curated a display titled Revolutionary Fiction. Karin C. created a display of non-fiction titles with the theme of Humans and Machines.
- Bart has started the process for becoming a notary.
- Shelf-reading on the third floor and in the Thoreau Room continued in April. There has been noticeable improvement in finding books in both areas of the library due to this project.
- Spring decor arrived in the circulation department much to the delight of staff and patrons alike!



Fowler Library

- Fowler Library was closed the week of April 14th so that all of the carpet could be replaced. Fowler looks stunning and staff and patrons are enjoying the new, plush flooring! Staff spent the week at the Main Library, helping during the lead up to the 250th and connecting with colleagues in other departments.
- To accommodate the closure, Madeline led a joint meeting of Book-a-Mystery and Bookworms (our tween book club), creating a fun, intergenerational discussion.
- The Concord 250 Community Engagement committee led a very well-attended, very successful "Concord Gets Ready" workshop for all ages.
- ArtScape partnered with OARS 3 Rivers for a new community art show, The Rivers of Concord. Submissions ran the gamut in media (including a quilt, a wooden vase, a metal and glass sculpture, pottery photographs, paintings, and more), and artist age (6-84), and the opening on April 3 was a joyous event.
- Dorrie and Laura joined CPS Sustainability Director Priscilla Guiney and two members of the CCHS Green Team to present at the Middlesex School Green Summit on why and how to plant a pollinator garden. By participating, they got to see keynote speaker and inspiring environmental writer Margaret Renkl.
- Seed sows continued in Craft Lab and during a special Earth Day storytime, and staff have been eagerly watching seedlings emerge with the change in weather.
- Khyati completed her Sign Language course and has been incorporating the lessons into storytimes with Carousel.

Innovation & Communications

- In the month of April, the Workshop loaned 124 tools to the public and had more than 144 patrons use the craft cart!
- The Workshop's [Summer calendar](#) is now live on the Library's website!
- The Innovation and Communication team made improvements to the [Library's catalog](#) interface, including adding World Language materials browsing.

Technical Services

- In March, Tech Services ordered, received, cataloged, entered and processed 1,135 new items.
- Staff attended a training session of Minuteman Mobile, a new library app from Minuteman Library Network.

Special Collections

- April 5 saw the opening of our exhibition, A Celebration Heard 'Round the World, April 5–June 30, 2025-Munroe Gallery and First Floor of the Main Library. The exhibition features selections from the William Munroe Special Collections and the Town Archives, including art, photographs, broadsides, Town records, and ephemera that explore how Concordians have celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Concord, also known as the "Concord Fight," on April 19, 1775.
- On April 5, we hosted Historian Michael D. Hattem, who spoke about the importance of the memory of the Revolution, specifically regarding how events in Concord have been perceived nationally.
- In partnership with GBH Boston, Florentine Films, Concord250, Concord Carlisle High School, and the towns of Lexington, Lincoln, and Arlington, the Library facilitated a visit on April 17 from renowned filmmaker Ken Burns, along with a preview of his new documentary about the American Revolution. Students and residents from all four towns filled 800 seats in Lexington's Cary Hall and 600 seats in the Concord-Carlisle High School auditorium. The Library would like to thank all of the partners who made this event such a success! [Watch the GBH recording](#) of the post-screening discussion in Concord with Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and Rick Atkinson.
- Over multiple days, we hosted Susan Shumaker, a producer and story researcher with Florentine Films and Ewers Brothers Productions. She is currently working on a film biography of Henry David Thoreau, with Ken Burns serving as executive producer, scheduled for release in 2025/2026. Her team has spent the last two years researching and selecting countless images from our manuscript, print, and photographic holdings.



Administration and Staffing

- The Library prepared for increased visitors during the month of April, leading up to the April 19th celebrations. Additional security measures were successfully implemented and the celebrations were a big success.
- Library staff worked the Information call line for the Concord250 celebrations, answering 450 calls in 16 hours. Staff helped direct residents and guests to transportation options during the April 19 celebrations, answered questions about road closures and access to Town, and helped connect people with information about all of the activities taking place around Concord that weekend. Happy 250th, Concord!
- The Library's wireless internet at the Main Library has been extended and now reaches the very end of the front lawn, where Sudbury Rd and Main Street meet. This project was initiated by the Town's Information Technology department as part of the preparations for Concord250. It will remain a permanent expansion of wireless internet services at the Main Library. Thank you, Town IT!
- Thank you to Weeds and Seeds for their stunning 250th planters on the Main Library's front porch!

