

Reference Services

- Reference answered 275 reference questions, booked 224 meeting rooms, assisted 119 patrons with technology, and advised 1 patron on reading choices. Four patrons used the Library's notary service. Michelle John put together an eye-catching display in the lobby for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Gay Weiss led the staff in making a sustainable craft during Staff Training Day on May 10.
- The Department hosted a number of exciting programs in June including an author talk by Dora Farkas about her debut novel *Choice*. Thursday Morning Meditation continued to attract an average of 30 participants every Thursday in May. The Tuesday Book Discussion group partnered with the Military Family Support Group of Concord for a special discussion of *We Band of Angels: the untold story of the American Women trapped on Bataan*, by Elizabeth Norman. In addition, we had an excellent Cookbook Club in May, as participants created delicious recipes from the Silver Palate Cookbooks. On May 10, the Concord Bridge published a wonderful [article](#) about Cookbook Club.
- The Reference Department celebrated Wellness Week in partnership with the Town of Concord Health Department and sponsored by the Friends of CFPL. Events included QPR Training, Yoga, Reading for WellBeing, story sharing, a SoulCollage workshop, presentations on embracing stress and emotions for teens and caring for an aging loved one, as well as intergenerational drum activities to improve mental awareness. The Health Department sent over a number of brochures, which were on display in the corridor during the second half of May.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 10 programs in May with a total attendance of 61 teen attendees.
- Program attendance in May was remarkably consistent despite the individual programs catering to different groups of patrons.
- On Saturday, May 4th, the library hosted several teens from the Girl Up! women in STEM club at CCHS. The group planned, organized, and ran several science based programs for school age patrons with the goal of showcasing female leadership in the field. They had 26 kids signed up for the program, but accepted several other walk-ins attracted to the room by Korean Family Day with grace. We hope to coordinate more programs with them in the future. Big thanks are due to Ricky who let us drop eggs out of his office window into the courtyard room!
- Dungeons and Dragons has finally hit a good equilibrium of three individual groups (on their way to four) due to an infusion of new players attracted to the teen room by interest in our Magic the Gathering community and Robot Fight Club.
- The teen librarian attended a workshop on understanding teen behavior at the Northampton MLS offices on Thursday May 9th. It provided a few good resources and tactics to help library staff support teen patrons in their journey towards becoming excellent humans, as well as reminders about the philosophy of what it means to serve teen patrons effectively (while maintaining one's sanity).
- The teen librarian was able to network with the teen librarians from the Lincoln library on Thursday May 30th to exchange ideas about teen room and teen program development. They were able to connect via a mutual partnership with the Middlesex area Domestic Violence Support Network, who hope to work more closely with the teen librarian to bring violence prevention and support tools to our teen patrons.
- Manga has moved to its new shelving! The shelving, which fits seamlessly into the room, was appropriated from the staff area when Emily's keen eye saw its potential for the collection. Many thanks to custodial staff who painted and restored it! Since coming into the room, manga titles on prominent display have been hard to keep on the shelf!
- Teen is gearing up for its secondary Summer Reading Program: Trial by Firewall. It will offer teens going into grades 6-12 options to participate in an online-only version of SRC (in addition to Reading Dragons, which they are excited for) with missions, challenges, and prize options developed by teens, for teens!

Children's Library

- In May, Children's staff were thrilled to partner with Technical Services and the Korean Cultural Society of Boston to celebrate Korean culture by hosting a variety of programs for Korean Family Month. Families had the opportunity to learn to brush paint both art and hangul calligraphy, learn the art of jong-i jeobgi (hangul origami), learn about Korean music through Dalcroze eurythmics, and enjoy a concert featuring traditional Korean music. Children's also partnered with First Connections to install a temporary StoryWalk in the Children's Garden featuring the book *Danbi Leads the School Parade* by Anna Kim.
- Children's also teamed up with Reference to present two programs during Wellness Week: an intergenerational drumming workshop for fitness and fun, and a presentation by MIT lecturer Dr. Karin Hodges for caregivers and educators on the benefits of allowing kids to experience stress.

- Make-it! Club hosted two exciting partners in May that encouraged kids to practice sustainable habits. First, Mothers Out Front visited and hosted a craft and bike helmet fitting demonstration in celebration of Bike Month. Then, volunteers from Concord Kids Care visited to teach kids how to recycle junk mail into beautiful creations for the Students Rebuild: Extraordinary Earth Challenge! Together with kids visiting from Concord Recreation After School, Make-it! Club participants made over 200 crafts from recycled materials!
- Children’s staff spent much of May finishing preparations for this year’s Summer Reading Challenge! Beginning on June 10, the Children’s Library and the Fowler Branch will present two challenges that will encourage children and caregivers to foster a daily habit of reading:
 - The **Rubber Ducky Club**, for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, invites caregivers to read with their children every day. For every seven days they read and record, their child can earn a rubber ducky as a keepsake.
 - **Reading Dragons**, for kids and teens, encourages participants to read and collect dragon trading cards for the opportunity to win prizes. Kids can evolve their dragon (or pick a new egg) for every two days they read this summer.



Circulation

- Circulation had 16,777 transactions and welcomed 63 new patrons to the CFPL family. Saturdays and Wednesdays continue to be the busiest circulation days for the department.
- Patrons reserved 173 museum passes, with the New England Aquarium in first place, followed by the Isabella Stewart Gardner and the Trustees of the Reservations.
- Staff noticed a significant increase in visitors who are impressed with the Library building. The runaway favorite choice for new library cards is the painting of the Library, done by the Fowler Branch Manager!



- The Circulation staff created book displays with the topics “Fiction with Flowers” and “Get Outside”.
- In response to patron requests, we added 20 new puzzles to our puzzle swap, made from recycled materials; courtesy of the Friends!
- Circulation staff continued their involvement with the CFPL’s Sustainability initiatives and professional development including attending the Massachusetts Library Association annual conference.



Fowler Library

- Fowler staff kicked off May (aka National Bicycle Month) with the West Concord Family Bike Festival, offered in collaboration with Safe Routes to School and Mothers Out Front and hosted by Bradford Mill. It included safety drills, helmet checks, e-bike demonstrations, bike decorating, and more. Mothers Out Front rounded out the month with a bicycle themed Sustainability Studio.
- On May 18, Fowler participated in the fourth annual Spring into West Concord. The scavenger hunt offered with Art for All was a huge draw, with over 100 participants finding all 20 gorgeously painted pollinators scattered in windows throughout West Concord. The prizes, donated by local businesses, made it well worth their effort! Members of the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee led a tape resist painting project, made possible by the Mass Cultural Council. Library staff, having served on the poetry selection committee, gladly attended the unveiling of WCJCDC’s Poetry Phone. Finally, ArtScape offered an artist talk and reception to give community members another chance to enjoy Art in Bloom, which ended on May 25.
- Staff continue to improve the backyard. After the scavenger hunt, custodial staff installed the pollinators on the back fence. They also installed the little library, decorated by many hands, which will become an outdoor native seed library. Finally, they added an arbor for the beans. Staff planted vegetables, herbs, and flowers for the Seed Lending Library’s garden. The pollinator garden, now in its second spring, continues to expand, provoking conversation and education.
- Barefoot Books brought Bunmi Emanajo to read from her recently published picture book, I’ll See You in Ijebu.
- Branch Librarian Dorrie Karlin attended and presented at the annual MLA conference.
- The end of the month brought in a flurry of activity caused by the hatching of six chicks. They received visits from admirers of all ages.



Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop extended its hours to offer Open Maker Hours noon to 4 PM every Saturday afternoon!
- The Workshop's Summer 2024 program calendar is available now, featuring:
 - a variety of rainbow-themed crafts throughout the month of June,
 - an introduction to gelli plate printing with local artist Kimberly Stoney, and
 - all ages paint & sip events with Pop-Up Art School
- This summer, the Workshop is also offering an all ages Summer Maker Program: pick up a Workshop Summer Maker Program card and earn a stamp every time you visit from June to August. Collect 10 stamps to trade your card in for special makerspace materials, including: needle-felting and cross-stitching kits, colorful laser cutter acrylic, holographic iron-on vinyl to create your own custom clothes with our Cricut machines, and glow-in-the-dark 3D printing plastic!



Technical Services

- The Team ordered, received, cataloged, entered and processed 728 new items in May and shipped dozens of valuable old books to a commercial bindery for rebound.
- May was AAPI (Asian-American & Pacific Islander) Heritage month. With the generous funding from the Friends of the Library, the Team and the Library staff collaborated with the Boston Korean Cultural Society which installed a month-long Korean calligraphy exhibition in the Munroe Gallery, demoed Korean calligraphy, conducted a hands-on Korean arts and craft workshop, and showcased a Korean dance concert on the Main Library front lawn.

Special Collections

- Special Collections served 105 visitors/researchers (85 on-site) and answered 62 reference requests received on-site, via phone, and email.
- Curator Anke Voss serves on the 250th Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee, the Concord Reformatory Prison Taskforce, the Miller Committee, and as a trustee of the RWEMA.
- Circulation Assistant Eve Bourbeau-Allard continued processing the Munroe Family Collection.
- The Children's Art quilt has been cleaned and returned to the Library. You can see it in the Sudbury Rd foyer.
- Eleanor Donahue, a new Simmons University intern, will join us later this month for a 130-hour internship.
- Curator Anke Voss participated in an education focus group with representatives from the Concord Museum, The Trustees, Orchard House, Emerson House, and Elizabeth Watson, principal of Heritage Strategies, as part of the Town of Concord Planning Division's efforts toward a new Preservation Master Plan.
- The film screening, The Making of Joe Wheeler, was a great success, with approximately 50 people in attendance, including numerous members of the Wheeler family. Anke installed an exhibition on Joe Wheeler in the three exhibit cases in the Connector.
- The Concord Prison Outreach Program, Prison Cemetery Project Taskforce, asked Anke to serve as a Humanities Advisor on a grant application with the Mass Cultural Council.