

## Director's Report November 2022



### Reference Services

- The 30th Annual Concord Festival of Authors was very successful! Highlights include Keynote Speaker Alan Lightman, “Writing as an Act of Humanity” with Yung Pueblo, “Iranian Women and Their Quest for Equality” with Marjan Kamali, and the always popular Mystery Night. The number of attendees for each event is listed below.

10/15/22	Bob Gross - Transcendentalists and Minuteman	50
10/16/22	Miller Award	70
10/17/22	Annie Brewster - The Healing Power of Storytelling	33
10/18/22	Mindful Authors Shelly Tygielski and Chris Willard	28
10/21/22	Keynote Speaker Alan Lightman	125
10/22/22	Breakfast with the Authors	45
10/23/22	Time Travel Writing Workshop for Teens	5
10/23/22	CYWA ceremony with Yung Pueblo	30
10/23/22	Writing as an Act of Humanity: Yung Pueblo	96
10/24/22	Debut Authors	30
10/25/22	Iranian Women and Their Quest for Equality with Marjan Kamali	56
10/28/22	Robbins House: A School. Sugar. A Slave Bell	30
10/29	Barefoot Books event at Fowler with Sheetal Sheth	16
10/29/22	Riedel Lecture with Rajani LaRocca	25
10/30/22	Writing Collections with E.B. Bartels and Tom McNeely	15
10/30/22	Poetry Panel with Emily Carlson, Max Heinegg, David O'Connell	21
10/30/22	CFA Mystery Night	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>726</b>

- The new printing system is working very well. Patrons love the new wireless printing feature and the new scanner.
- There were a number of exciting Reference programs throughout October and early November, including the “20 Best Horror Films” with Randall Warniers, a GIS program class with Town GIS Technician and Analyst Jill Mooneran, and an author talk with Ukrainian writer Irena Kowal. The Reference Department looks forward to a production of *A Christmas Carol* with local actors Stephen Collins and Poornima Kirby.

## Youth Services

### Teen Lounge

October in the Teen Lounge was spook-tastic! With the help from Library staff, the CCHS Book Club invited author Dana Clark to discuss her book *The Connection* with teens. The Magic the Gathering program continued to be popular with middle schoolers, who also enjoyed the snacks provided by the Youth Services Department. The Tuesday Terror movie program began in October, but popcorn and soda were a bigger hit than the classic Hollywood horror movies. Gallery artist Shelby Meyerhoff led a popular face and body painting workshop for teens, and on that same day, a local highschooler led her very own Plastic Free Picnic (under the guidance of the Teen Librarian and Reference staff) at Fowler. The spooky season came to a close with the Halloween Pokemon Card Trade. The Library staff handed out booster card packs and skittles, traded, and designed Pikachu balloons!

### Adopt a Reading Pal Program

Children’s staff launched a six-week “Adopt a Reading Pal” program to promote love of reading, care of pets, and familiarity with library resources. 75 elementary-school-aged children received stuffed dogs thanks to generous funding from the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library. “Adopt a Reading Pal” included an adoption ceremony and a visit from Baypath Humane Society, who brought a rescue dog to the Children’s Library to teach children about caring for dogs. The most successful event was a face painting workshop taught by artist Shelby Meyerhoff and parade through the library. Everyone marched through the Library with their stuffed dogs and enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the Library, a spin in the Director’s chair, and some fun prizes along the way.



### Pumpkin Decorating Party

The Pumpkin Decorating Party - generously funded by the CFPL Corporation - was hugely successful, with over 175 people attending. Children received free pumpkins thanks to donations from Scimone Farm and Verrill Farm. Four special guests from the community served as pumpkin judges and awarded prizes: Pediatric Dentist, Dr. Joe Jarosz, DDS, Friend’s Co-Treasurer Stephan Bader, Jenn Robinson from Verrill Farm, and Grace Scimone from Scimone Farm.

## Paper-Mache Vegetables

The Children's Department collaborated with The Umbrella Arts Center and Concord Recreation to create giant paper-mache veggies which are hanging from the Children's Library ceiling. The Children's Department thanks Umbrella Arts staff for leading the workshop and the Friends of the CFPL for providing the funding.

## Scarecrow Festival

The ever-popular 7th annual Scarecrow Festival featured whimsical scarecrows made by local organizations at the Main Library's and Fowler Library.



## Circulation

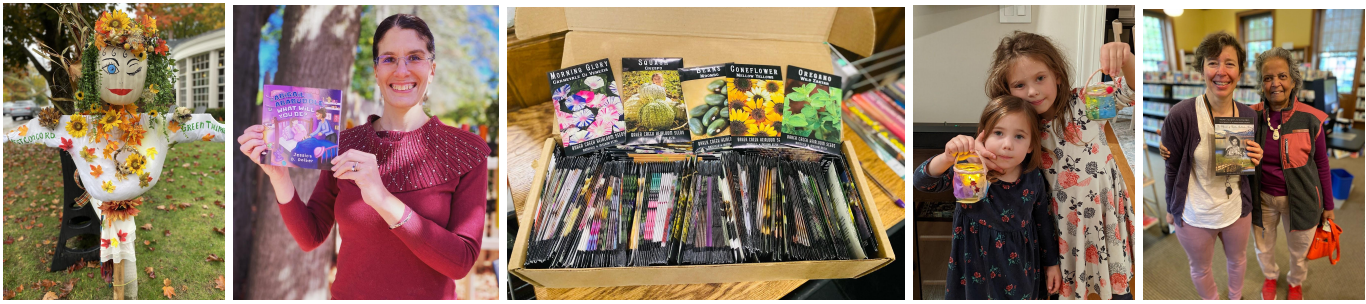
During the busy month of October, the Circulation Department...

- Welcomed over eighty new patrons.
- Processed 129 museum pass reservations with the Museum of Fine Arts being the top destination of interest.
- Featured a variety of displays including Halloween-themed staff picks, cozy fall favorites, Diwali, and large print horror.
- Rejoiced in the arrival of a second batch of in demand library cards that are designed by Fowler Branch Supervisor Dorrie Karlin!
- Transformed the Circulation Desk into a haunted pumpkin patch full of welcoming decor for all ages.
- Participated in a variety of workshops pertaining to collection development and DEI initiatives.





## Fowler Library



- The Fowler Branch had a busy October, introducing new programming, continuing ongoing activities, and celebrating Discover West Concord Day and the Concord Festival of Authors. Fowler staff offered a mix of in person, virtual, and take home activities for all ages, serving over 1,200 in more than 70 programs.
- The West Concord Green Thumbs made a scarecrow, “Lady Gaia,” including Fowler again as part of the annual Scarecrow Festival.
- Sponsored by the Friends of CFPL, Ricardo Rosales did his first “Musical Morning with Ricardo,” a music class in Spanish and English. He is scheduled to return monthly.
- Laurie Engdahl provided a very well-received introduction to watercolors over three weeks, also sponsored by the Friends of CFPL.
- West Concord resident Jessica Dolber came for an author visit. She read her picture book *Abigail Ababuddle, What Will You Be?* to an appreciative Saturday morning group.
- Discover West Concord Day was hugely successful, in part due to gorgeous weather on Saturday, 10/15. Fowler worked with Art for All to create and run a scavenger hunt. The 71 participants had to find 21 train cars hidden in windows throughout West Concord for the chance to win donated prizes.
- Working with the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee, Fowler also hosted a reception for their industry project on Discover West Concord Day, with refreshments from the Library Corporation. Attendees visited the photo exhibit installed in September and had two opportunities to view the documentary, “Rails, Rivers, and Revenues,” which was made by Dr. Susan Erickson’s 5th grade class in 2000. The audience included Maynard Forbes, Betty Damon, many retired Thoreau teachers, and one of the former fifth graders. Copies of the documentary are available for checkout.
- The Concord Seed Lending Library received a donation from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company, making it well stocked for its 10th anniversary in 2023.
- Barefoot Books brought picture book author Sheetal Sheth to Fowler for the Concord Festival of Authors. She shared her story *Making Happy*, illustrated by Khoa Le.
- With help from volunteers, Fowler continued to provide weekly Take and Makes, including a mini scarecrow, a popular lantern for Diwali, and various spooky crafts.
- Library Assistant Jessica Randazzo had her last day on 10/22. She has been a wonderful addition to the staff for the past 6 months.
- Fowler looks forward to West Concord resident Radha Jalan sharing her memoir, *From Calcutta to Concord: The Journey of an Independent Woman* in December.

## Special Collections

- Special Collections staff served 70 on-site researchers in October and answered 85 reference requests on-site via phone and email.
- Special Collections staff serve on the REV250th Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee and the Library’s 150th Anniversary Committee.

- Special Collections hired Project Archivist Anne Woodrum, who will conduct a comprehensive inventory of Special Collections holdings at the Concord Free Public Library and Fowler Branch. Anne's first day is November 15.
- Special Collections staff meet weekly with the Concord Museum's curatorial team to continue to develop and design the joint 2023 exhibit featuring highlights from the Library's art collection. Exhibit preparations continue, including writing object labels and exhibit text panels for the Daniel Chester French exhibit, also planned for 2023.
- Martha Cole, on behalf of the descendants of Thomas Munroe and his spouse, Ellen Middleton Munroe, donated an exceptional family photograph album and scrapbook spanning several generations of Munroes.

### Innovation and Communications

The new Innovation and Communications Department was excited to begin planning for the opening of the Workshop makerspace. Staff began meeting with vendors to evaluate a variety of maker tools and equipment for the new program and are working with the Town to begin the procurement process. Thanks to generous funding from the Library Corporation, they had the opportunity to host a Coffee Hour for staff, Friends of the CFPL, the Library Committee, and the Trustees.

### Technology and Technical Services

- The Main Library and the Fowler Branch Library's public printing system received a complete changeover in late October. The new public printing and PC access management system is powered by TBS, Total Business Solutions. The system includes a beautiful touchscreen ScanEz station, a flatbed scanner, duplex feeder, and a print release and payment kiosk at both locations. The system also includes a user-friendly mobile printing feature. When the system is fully implemented, our patrons will have the option to pay with a credit card in addition to cash, and send faxes.
- The Main Library and the Fowler Branch Library each replaced the old Self-Checkout kiosks with new ones.
- The Technical Services Department staff managed to add over 1,500 items - books and non-print materials - to the Library collection in the month of October, setting up a new record!

### Administration and Staffing

- The Library hosted a meet-and-greet for The Library Corporation Trustees, the Library Committee and the Friends of the Library to meet our new Makerspace Coordinator, Christiana Urbano. Christiana is in charge of the Workshop Makerspace at the Main Library, and will be heading up all kinds of innovation and technology initiatives at both library locations. Christiana is pictured below in the Workshop wearing a fabulous ghost sweater, alongside other staff and library folks dressed for Halloween.
- Administration is making good progress on filling vacancies for Sunday staff. An announcement will be made as soon as the Main Library's reopening on Sundays is confirmed.
- Hiring is also in progress for two Library Page vacancies, and one part-time Library Assistant position.

