

Director's Report October 2022



Reference Services

- The Romance Festival ("Rom Con") was well attended with around 160 participants. There were three panel discussions in the Goodwin Forum, as well as smaller panel discussions in the Trustees Room and on the Front Lawn. The Concord Bookshop sold over \$1600 worth of books. At least one participant drove from New Jersey to attend.
- For Climate Preparation Week, Reference Librarian Reni organized an event with Concord's Fire Chief, Thomas M. Judge, and Assistant Fire Chief, Walter Latta, to discuss wildfires in Massachusetts. Reni also organized the Climate Ribbon Project in front of the Sudbury Road entrance of the Main Library, where patrons could write on a 2-foot ribbon what they most love and do not want to lose to climate change, and then add their ribbon to the display. In addition, Reni organized a program with Concord Land Conservation Trust and Town Natural Resources Division, in which each organization spoke about what they are doing to support native pollination systems.
- The [website](#) for the Concord Festival of Authors is complete. Many of the events are now open for registration.
- The Concord Visitors Center put on a production of Between Two Sisters, A Living History Dialogue with Beloved Louisa and May Alcott, sponsored by the Friends of CFPL. Fifty-five people attended the performance and the actors received rave reviews.

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

Late summer programs continued into September, including "The College Essay Studio" on Tuesdays and "Teen Magic: The Gathering" on Wednesdays. Most afternoons, teens ranging in age from 12 to 18 visited to hang out or, most often, study for the next day's classes. Many also prepared for college applications. On September 24, artist Becky Behar returned to the Library to facilitate another "Sunlight Photography (Cyanotype) Workshop." Students learned about the history of the process, the basics of photographic composition, and went home with their very own "Prussian Blue" hued creations.

Massachusetts Children's Book Award (MCBA)

In an effort to support the elementary school students who are reading the Massachusetts Children's Book Award books, staff created a semi-permanent display of the 25 winning titles. Additionally, staff are ordering extra copies of these books to better serve our young patrons. There is also a link on our [website](#) with information about the winning titles and the award.

Blanding's Turtles

The Library now has a [webpage](#) to educate patrons about the Blanding's turtles that reside in the Children's Library. Staff add more content to this webpage regularly, and hope to add more video and photos, fun facts, and encourage children to write letters to the turtles Vlad and Juan, who will "write" back.

Parent Teacher Collection



Additional shelving was installed to display the Children's Library parent-teacher collection. This collection has been thoroughly examined and outdated titles were removed to make space for more current material. Staff plan to add even more new books to this collection, as well as new signage and decorations.

Pumpnickel Puppets

On September 9, Pumpnickel Puppets entertained 125 patrons of all ages with a wonderful show. Library staff posted some [videos](#) of the show on the CFPL's social media channels and overnight received over 70,000 views across Facebook and Instagram!

Circulation

The Circulation Team...

- Welcomed 124 new patrons (compiled from August).
- Processed 117 Museum Pass reservations - New England Aquarium and Peabody Essex Museum being the top draws.
- Created displays featuring comic books for National Comic Book Month, the works of Doris Kearns Goodwin, Fall Favorites, and refreshed the Staff Picks in the Main Library corridor.
- Team members participated in the Romance Festival ("Rom Con").
- Circulation staff took webinars on new title releases, circulation trends in Minuteman Library Network libraries, and Canva-specific graphic design.
- Received and processed one of the largest deliveries ever (see image below)!



Fowler Library



- To support the Library's sustainability plan and local wildlife, Fowler partnered with Concord Land Conservation Trust and West Concord Green Thumbs to plant a pollinator garden during Climate Preparation Week. Fowler staff intend for this work to complement the Seed Lending Library and Fowler's vegetable garden.
- Staff moved the Seed Lending Library upstairs in order to aid in Seed Lending Library and sustainable practice awareness.
- The Houseplant Swap continues, and Fowler staff have received many reports of thriving plants in the community.
- Fowler participated in the Climate Ribbon Project again, which was moved to the front yard this year.
- The West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee installed a photography exhibit as part of their industry project. They reproduced 14 photos, some from Special Collections, to explain West Concord's industrial history. They unveiled their third mural on September 24, and this photography exhibit complements the mural. Fowler will highlight it further on Discover West Concord Day (October 15) when Fowler will screen the documentary *Rails, Rivers, and Revenues*, created in 2000 by Thoreau School 5th graders.

Programming, Outreach, and Partnerships

Program Type	# of Programs	Attendees
Virtual	8	51
In person	43	671
self-directed (drop-in, take home)	4	341
Total:	55	1063

- Fowler has continued many regular programs from the summer, and staff are pleased to have several additions and changes.
 - "Fairy Tales at Fowler" begins on Thursdays, a storytime for older children that introduces a range of folklore.
 - "Preschool Play" is now on Monday afternoons, and staff are bringing new ideas to this popular program.
 - The first bilingual music class at Fowler, "Musical Morning with Ricardo," begins on October 1.
 - There will be two author visits to Fowler in October, one as part of the Concord Festival of Authors.
 - Girls Who Code (GWC) had its information session on September 15, and both Fowler staff and GWC facilitators are looking forward to a wonderful year with a blend of returning and new students.
 - First Connections began another series of "Mandarin Storytime" on September 17.
 - Chess Club returned, and leaders are waiting to see how much interest there is in the community for a weekly gathering.
- Fowler adult book clubs continue to be very successful, facilitated by an assortment of staff and wildly popular with patrons who have a variety of interests.

- Take and Make kits have been well received by the community, receiving rave reviews by some patrons. This month, Fowler continued with jellyfish, flower cards, and adorable giraffes as Take and Make crafts.

Special Collections

- Special Collections staff served 65 onsite patrons in September and answered over 93 unique reference questions onsite and via phone and email.
- Matthew Radulski was hired for the position of Special Collections Intern on June 7. He continues to make excellent progress processing the records of the CFPL, CFPL Friends, and CFPL Corporation.
- Special Collections staff meet weekly with the Concord Museum's curatorial staff to develop and design the joint exhibit planned for 2023 (March 24 - September 1).
- Special Collections Curator Anke serves on several committees, including the 250th Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee, the Wright Tavern Research Team, and a group recently convened to plan to interpret the Concord Reformatory Cemetery. Assistant Curator Jessie Hopper is chairing the Library-wide 150th Anniversary Committee.
- Special Collections posted weekly articles to the Library newsletter, Library social media, and an article in the fall issue of *Discover Concord*.

Administration and Staffing

- In October the Library will welcome the new part-time Maintenance Custodian Hector Arana-Ruano, who will be working two evenings a week and every Sunday.
- Children's Library Assistant, Fiona Stevenson, announced that she will be leaving her position on October 6. The Library wishes her all the best and staff are glad that they will continue to see Fiona frequently as a Book Sorter for the Friends.
- The library is excited to announce that Christiana Urbano will be joining the leadership team as the first ever Makerspace Coordinator on October 24th. Christiana was most recently the Technology Reference Librarian at the Public Library of Brookline where she was instrumental in opening a makerspace, as well as designing and fabricated numerous [Library To-Go Kits](#) and accompanying instructional videos. Prior to Brookline, Christiana worked at the well known Earl Center for Learning and Innovation teaching 3D printing, video technology and other makerspace and STEAM tools.
- Library Administration is working on filling several vacancies for Library Assistants in order to reopen the Main Library on Sundays.
- Staff are beginning to register for a variety of professional development opportunities, made possible by the generous funding from the Friends of the Library and the Library Corporation.