

Reference Services

- Reference answered 356 reference questions, booked 324 meeting rooms, assisted 139 patrons with technology, and advised 8 patrons on reading choices. Six patrons used the Library's notary service.
- Artie created a display of books/CDs by Nobel Prize winning authors, while Barbara created a display in the Rotunda entitled "A New Year, A New You".
- The department hosted a number of exciting programs in January including author talks by local authors Fred Kinch, author of *The Business of Secrets*, and Yasin Kakande, author of *A Murder of Hate* (pictured below). In addition, the library hosted mindfulness instructors Lara Wilson and Jacob Millendorf for a 10-week virtual course starting on January 21 called Ancient Wisdom: Practices and Principles. The Tuesday Book Discussion group had a lively discussion of the book *The Beast in the Jungle*, by Henry James, while the Cookbook Club (pictured below) enjoyed recipes from Chef Jennifer Segal, author of *Once Upon a Chef*.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 9 programs in January with a total attendance of 56 teens.
- The teen lounge hosted several visits from the nearby Corwin-Russell Broccoli Hall school this month. Groups of students were excited to use the rooms amenities and find materials that sparked their interests. The school plans to make such visits a regular occurrence.
- Our Magic the Gathering draft program on Saturday, January 25th was the standout with yet another full roster and full attendance. Teens are now beginning to organize their own magic events both in and out of the library. The teen librarian is also giving some guidance to some patrons as they develop Magic the Gathering clubs at their schools.

Children's Library

- After a busy December, the Children's Library took a short break from regular programming to prepare for the next programming season. Staff (with help from Facilities) also used this time to hang lanterns to celebrate Lunar New Year and curated a Lunar New Year display for the Year of the Snake.
- Children's staff again partnered with the Concord-Carlisle Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council to present "Growth: Harmonizing Solitude, Guidance, and Freedom," the last in the *Transforming Childhood: Expertise, Innovation, and Community Engagement* series located at the Library. This event invited parents to consider options for their children's summer learning experiences and offered alternatives to rigid summer schedules. Library staff encourages the public to attend our partner's culminating event in the series, a visit from Kareem Weaver, documentarian and literacy advocate, which will take place at the CCHS auditorium on March 6, 2025 at 6:30pm.
- Next month, the staff look forward to sharing more details on a special run of programming for February vacation week, including:
 - a winter paint and sip for families,
 - a dinosaur egg hunt in the Children's Library,
 - a special "Break-it! Club" where kids will take apart old and broken technology,
 - and a Spanish language learning program featuring songs and stories.

Circulation

- The circulation team has been working on weeding collections in the library. Currently, the team is working with Michelle on weeding items in the Thoreau Room.
- Large print has also been getting weeded.
- The goal for these weeding projects is to make the shelves more browsable and to gain space on the shelves to "face-out" items. We hope that by making these changes, that circulation numbers will increase in those areas.
- Corridor displays for January dealt with the topics of Fashion and a curated collection by Jesse on books about Alaska.
- Stacey hosted January's Afternoon Tea Book Club at Fowler
- Bart has been added as a book selector. Bart has a deep background in the science fiction genre. Bart hopes to further develop the library's collection for that genre as that genre has a strong following of readers.
- The circulation department will be running the Adult Summer Reading Program for summer 2025. The team has been coming up with ideas for the program to launch in June.

Fowler Library



- Fowler Staff welcomed January and the new year with an early countdown during the annual Noon Year's Eve celebration. The confetti promises to last through 2026, as will the community spirit!
- To promote sustainability and support biodiversity, Fowler staff offered a range of Winter Seed Sow workshops, which are continuing into February. In early January, staff collaborated with the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, the CCHS Green Team, West Concord Green Thumbs, and others for workshops hosted by Verrill Farm. Thanks to the Friends of CFPL, Lady Fern Farm provided a workshop at Fowler.
- Local artists Cathy Karp and Mark Melchior taught a Paper Bead workshop.
- Inspired by the ArtScape-curated Generations of Artists community art show, Fowler partnered with the Council on Aging to offer a portrait session in which young artists drew pictures of senior models.

- As the 250th approaches, local chapters of the DAR led a program commemorating Paul Revere's Ride, reading Longfellow's famous poem and providing related crafts.
- Regular programs, from storytimes to book clubs to crafts to yoga, kept patrons of all ages busy and the parking lot full. With spring around the corner, walking and biking to the library may alleviate parking challenges!



Innovation & Communications



- The Workshop staff were thrilled to open the A/V Lab to the public this month. Complete with a 4k camcorder, green screen, podcasting kit, editing booth, DSLR camera, and more, our A/V Lab is a whole second makerspace inside the makerspace!
- The Workshop launched its Spring program series with a fused glass workshop and a Valentine's card-making buffet! See everything that's coming up at cfpl.info/workshopevents

Technical Services

- In January, Tech Services staff ordered, cataloged, entered and processed 1,048 new books, DVDs and other materials and added them to the Library collections.

Special Collections

- Special Collections served 60 patrons and answered 50 reference requests received on-site, via phone, and email.
- Part-time Project Archivist Julia Klukoff continues processing the Town of Concord's Celebration Collection and is starting to design the upcoming exhibition. Project Archivist Matthew Radulski is processing the Doris Kearns Goodwin Collection and providing reference services.
- Special Collections staff have been shifting the Concord Authors Collection from the Rotunda to the Trustees' Room, Transcendental Alcove, and Special Collections.

- The Bust of Nathaniel Hawthorne, by Maria Louisa Lander, was shipped to Brunswick, Maine, for the upcoming exhibition Poetic Truths: Hawthorne, Longfellow, and American Visual Culture, 1840-1880 which will be on exhibit from February 6 - July 20, 2025, in the Markell Gallery at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.
- Documentarian Ken Burns will visit Concord on April 17 to discuss his new film, "The American Revolution," timed to the start of the War of Independence on April 19, 1775. Burns will be joined by co-directors Sarah Botstein, David Schmidt, and historian Rick Atkinson, author of "The British Are Coming," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Concord-Carlisle High School. Following approximately 40 minutes of clips, the filmmakers and Atkinson will join in a conversation about the film and the meaning of events at Lexington and Concord that led to the American Revolution. The event will be open to the general public, with reserved seating for Arlington, Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln residents and students. Registration information will be available in early March.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library was closed on Friday, January 31st in the morning for an all staff training session. Staff were trained on customer service and cross-departmental coverage. In addition, staff were provided with an overview of the Concord 250th celebrations and April 19th parade, including how the Library is preparing for an influx of visitors. The Friends of the Library provided staff with a fortifying lunch before reopening at 1pm.