

### Reference Services

- The 31st annual Concord Festival of Authors kicked off on October 20 with keynote speaker Jennifer De Leon. The Library hosted 11 programs this year with a total of 473 attendees. Highlights included the Robbins House program with author Ray Shepard (65 attendees), the Leslie Riedel Memorial Lecture for Young People (142 attendees) featuring author Chris Van Dusen, the Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History with Concordian Robert Gross (70 attendees), and the always popular Breakfast with the Authors (48 attendees). Thank you to the Friends, the Corporation, and Library staff for all of their hard work!
- There were 307 general reference questions in October and 130 technology questions. Staff booked 219 rooms for patrons and assisted five patrons with reader's advisory. One patron used the library's notary service.

### Youth Services

#### Teen Lounge

- The Teen Dungeons and Dragons group continued their new campaign in October, and interest in the group has grown so much that the adventurers have now been split into two groups that will compete against each other to see which group can complete their quest first!
- Teens also had the opportunity to participate in several events in celebration of spooky season, including a game of Ultimate Werewolf, the inaugural meeting of the Paranormal Club, and even pumpkin carving.

#### Children's Library

- Youth Services staff hosted 60 programs with nearly 2000 total attendees (as compared to last year's 35 programs with 1385 attendees)! Musical Mondays, Make-It Club, and storytimes continued strong as we transitioned into the colder months.
- Youth Services also enjoyed several special October events. Those programs included:
  - Three programs in recognition of Dyslexia Awareness Month, including partnerships with Concord-Carlisle Decoding Dyslexia and Concord Public Schools.
  - The annual Pumpkin Decorating Party, which had nearly 200 attendees who decorated 100 pumpkins donated from Scimone Farm.
  - The Second Annual Adopt a Reading Pal series, where 70 children were paired with special stuffed reading dogs and encouraged to read to their dogs at least five times a week. Our adopters met weekly in October for programs about animals, reading, and Library services.
- Youth Services was thrilled to collaborate with Reference and the Library Corporation to welcome Chris Van Dusen for the 8th annual Leslie Riedel Memorial Lecture for Young People.



## Circulation

- Circulation staff welcomed 69 new patrons to the CFPL family and finished the month with 17,630 transactions! Patrons also reserved 115 museum passes.
- Circulation was very active with the five-day delivery survey, including irregular deliveries. Both branches combined processed 80 incoming bins, and 84 outgoing bins containing 2,578 items!
- Staff created book displays of Cozy Mysteries and Myth Retelling that both patrons and staff enjoyed.
- Circulation staff continued their involvement with professional development, the CFPL's [150th Anniversary](#), and Sustainability.
- Circulation staff enjoyed decorating the department for Halloween and setting up Blue's Clues paw prints for the Children's Puppy Parade before their tour of the department!



## Fowler Library

- Adult Summer Reading Bingo and the Local Love Campaign completed this month. Thanks to the Friends and the Town of Concord, Fowler staff were thrilled to present a gift certificate to Debra's Natural Gourmet and the Gift of Concord to a few lucky winners.
- Along with Youth Services, Fowler started a series of visits from our busy community. Sargeants Michael Bordenca and Tia Manchuso from the Concord Police Department and Director of Public Health Melanie Dineen were guest readers during storytimes, sharing favorite stories and answering questions about their work.
- Patrons celebrated the last warm days, attending many weekly programs outdoors, including storytimes, Saturday Studio, Craft Lab, Messy Fun, and Preschool Play. Book-a-Mystery, Fowler Afoot, Afternoon Tea Book Club, and Next Chapter Book Club all continued with strong attendance as well.
- Fowler added two new book clubs. The MCBA (Massachusetts Children's Book Award) Book Club, for students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. Staff also created the Building Community Book Club alongside Art for All, dedicated to discussing ways to foster connection and combat loneliness.
- Fowler joined West Concord businesses for the annual Discover West Concord Day, working with ArtScape to host an artist reception for the *Walking* show.



## Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop welcomed artists Jongkuk Lee and Laurie Engdahl, who led free, hands-on workshops in hanji paper and wet felting.
- Workshop staff-led classes in 3D printing, sublimation printing, and laser cutting and checked out 74 tools to the public during Open Maker Hours.

## Technical Services

- In September and October, Tech Services staff processed a total of 1,693 new items for the Library collections.
- Tech Services successfully provided A/V support at the Annual Concord Festival of Authors events in October.
- On the November 1st staff day, Tech Services offered a well-received tour of the Tech Services Department, including the Book Conservation Studio, to the staff.

## Special Collections



From October 1 - December 22, Special Collections is curating an exhibition installed in the Art Galley at the Main Library: "Connecting the Community: An Exhibition to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Concord Free Public Library." The exhibit highlights the history of the Library's buildings, services, and staff. The exhibition also features displays on the first floor of the Main Library on early circulation procedures, conservation of the Library's First Collection, and a selection of books checked out to Concord residents, including Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, in the first decade of the Library's operation.

## Administration and Staffing

- George Jreije's tenure as CFPL Writer-In-Residence officially ended in October after six months. We thank George for his work on behalf of the Library over that period, and look forward to having him continue to work with CFPL for events in the future as well as to the work he produced during his residency. The next W-I-R will be selected in autumn 2024 for a January 2025 start date.
- Bethany Doane-Sharma has accepted a position as Reference Librarian focusing on Programming, and will begin in December. She comes to Concord via Somerville.