



CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CLIMATE CORNER



WINTER 2025



Sustainable Holidays

Community donated bows, wrapping paper, tissue paper, washi tape, gift bags, ribbon, glitter, greeting cards, gift tags, stickers and unconventional wrappings like road maps or old calendars. They were used to create patchwork gift wrap and bows at our ***Sustainable Wrap Party with Alex Makes Art.***

Did you know?

Not only does the Workshop provide opportunities to make your own gifts, it also offers classes on sustainable makes, like upcycled tea cup candles.



Wreath Composting at Fowler

For the second year in a row, Fowler worked with Mothers Out Front and Concord Public Works to keep wreaths out of the trash. Patrons visited our self-service, indoor workstation from 1/27-2/3. Wire cutters, pliers, gardening gloves, and tips from helpful volunteers made it quick and fun work. Together, we dismantled over 100 wreaths so the greenery could be composted at the Town Compost Site.





STAFF PICK

You don't need to be a bird enthusiast to play **Wingspan**, but it just might turn you into one.

I am not sure if it is the beautiful artwork that drew me in or the casual scientific focus, but I know now it is the “puzzle-like quality that allows for strategic decision-making” that keeps me coming back for more. It is the one game that I find myself begging friends and family to play on cold winter nights. Don't worry if you start dreaming about adding birds to your habitat, accumulating bird food (insects, mice, berries, and grain), while collecting colorful eggs, additional bird cards, and victory points. It is all part of the game.

There are three Wingspan expansions: Wingspan Asia, Wingspan Oceania, and Wingspan European. All versions can be borrowed from the Library.

1-5 PLAYERS, AGES 10+, 40-70 MINUTES

-Nadine, Technical Services



Sustainable Fashion: *Do's and Don'ts*

Thrifting is all the rage, visible mending is hip, and GREEN is the new black, so here are a few tips from the library Green Team.



Do: Use a Sewing Machine in the Workshop

The Workshop has 5 sewing machines that you can use during Open Maker Hours. Reserve one ahead of time.

Don't: Come in unprepared

Watch the training video.



Do: Learn Visible Mending & Sashiko

In March, join Cathy Karp to learn how to turn tears into works of art and moth holes into must haves. Registration opens two weeks before.



Don't: Worry if you can't join

Borrow a book on visible mending, use tools in the Workshop, and get started on your own.



Do: Check out thrift and consignment stores

Ask a librarian for help finding local options.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our online calendar for updates and to register for programs!

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 26 & MARCH 26
2 PM | FOWLER

The Nature Connection at Fowler

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12 | 2 PM | FOWLER
Water Wise Workshop with OARS

SATURDAY, MARCH 15 | 2 PM | WORKSHOP
Visible Mending

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 | 2 PM | WORKSHOP
Learn Sashiko!

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY



The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library



The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library has a long history of raising funds by recycling donated books and media. In 2024, they raised \$67,000 to benefit the Library's programs by selling donations at the book sales held in June and December and the Book Shops at the Main Library and at the Fowler Branch.

What happens to books that aren't sold at the book sales? No donations end up in landfills. The Friends of the Library recycles books by passing on donations to various outreach groups (e.g., More Than Words, Reach Out and Read Programs, the Concord Shelter). In 2024, they gave more than 200 boxes of books to various groups. The company Bay State Books takes all of the remaining items. The Friends of the Library receives \$.03 per pound for all discarded books and media. They sell what they can and the rest are used to create pulp. They also recycle all the cardboard boxes used to store books.

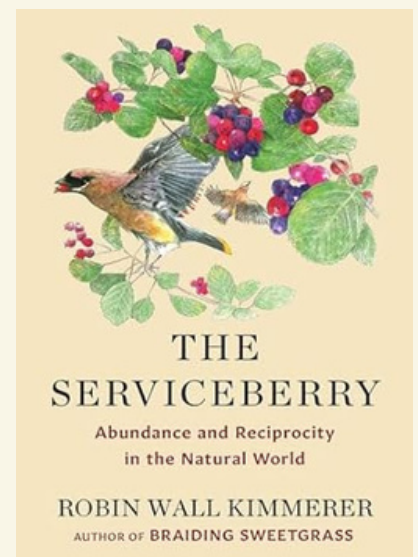
Book donations are accepted at the Main Library during open hours.

What if an economy based on obtaining acquisitions was instead replaced by an economy based on reciprocity?

This question is explored in the book *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This is the author's latest book after the very successful book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Through the example of the life cycle and indigenous uses of the serviceberry (Wall Kimmerer is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation), the book explains how an economy based on giving and not on accumulating wealth is better for humans and the environment alike.

Even with the economic topics throughout, this book is very accessible. Robin Wall Kimmerer writes with such clarity and descriptive beauty that the book reads as poetry, art, and science combined. It is a highly fascinating read. If you would like to reserve your copy of *The Serviceberry* just click on the [link](#) to access the Minuteman Library Network catalog.

STAFF PICK



- Rachel, Circulation

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY



Winter Walk to School

As a Safe Routes to School partner, the Library helped promote the Thoreau Winter Walk to School, and Fowler was the starting point. It was a very cold morning, but Mothers Out Front warmed us up with cider heated on the induction stove. We once again put our huskies out for students to find on their way to school.



In 2023, the West Concord Union Church launched A Future with Hope: A Capital Appeal for a Green Future. An old and inefficient heating system had outlived its usefulness, was expensive to maintain, and generated greenhouse gasses equivalent to 144, 000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

Technological advances made it possible to transition to a fossil fuel-free alternative: an air-source heat pump system with lower operation costs and near-zero yearly carbon emissions. The building also has roof solar panels and may add more in the future. As a result, as of 2024, the church building is carbon neutral.

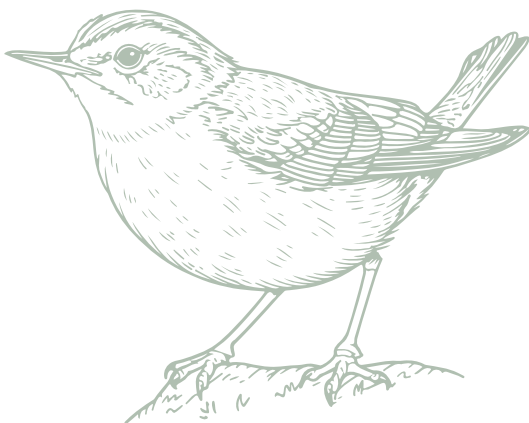


PHOTO GALLERY

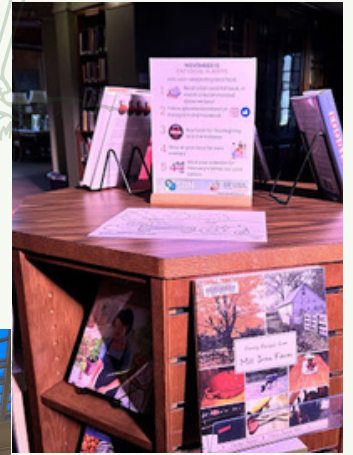
Winter Seed Sows

During January and February patrons of all ages had opportunities to support biodiversity by making their own mini greenhouses for native seeds that require cold weather to germinate. We worked with Lady Fern Farm, the Concord Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, the CCHS Green Team, the West Concord Green Thumbs, and Verrill Farm to reach as many people as possible. We can't wait to see the results!



Local Food Display

In November, staff member, Michelle, put up a display for local food resources. This was in collaboration with the Boston Eat Local Always initiative.



Children's "Drive-in" Movie

Kids used recycled CDs as wheels to decorate their "cars" at our Drive-In Movie.



Down to Earth: Art Exhibition

Our current exhibition in the Munroe Gallery features watercolors by local artist Susan McGillicuddy. Inspired by nature, her work celebrates the world around us.





SUSTAINABILITY TITLES FOR KIDS



To reserve a copy of the titles, click on images to access the Minuteman Library Network Catalog.

