

### Reference Services

- Reference Services led a number of exciting programs in May, including a lecture with Donna Gordon, author of *What Ben Franklin Would Have Told Me*. York Lo of the Chinese Historical Society of New England presented a talk entitled “From Exclusion to Inclusion? History of Chinese in New England: 1798 – Present” in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (below, right). The Wordsmove Theater performed Dylan Thomas’ *Under Milkwood: a Play for Voices* to 55 enthusiastic audience members (below, left).
- Tuesday Book Group discussed *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson, and Cookbook Club made brunch recipes. The Thursday morning meditation series, led by Lara Wilson, continues to attract over 25 meditators each week.



- Reference Services answered 281 general reference questions, 155 technology questions, and advised 17 patrons on reading selections. Staff reserved 177 meeting rooms. Two patrons used the Library’s notary service.

### Youth Services

#### Teen Lounge

The Dungeons and Dragons crew celebrated their last session before the summer hiatus with a pizza party, and teens enjoyed the brand new Nintendo Switch in the Teen Lounge with a competitive Mario Kart tournament.



## Children's Library

The Children's Library kicked off May by celebrating Comic Book Day. Kids participated in an all-day comic book read-a-thon, a comic writing workshop, and dressed up as superheroes so that they could take photos as they "flew" over a city backdrop. Staff partnered with Littleton's Legends Comix and Games to provide fun giveaways all day long!

Kids bid a fond farewell to the Children Library's Blanding's turtles, Louisa and May, before they were released back into the wild with help from Zoo New England. The going away party included a turtle storytime, crafts, snacks, favors, and even "pond water" to drink! The following week, the Children's Library welcomed new Blanding's turtles, Pickles and Hope, who spent their first year at Alcott Elementary School and will be residing at the Library until May 2024.

## Circulation

### In the previous month, Circulation Staff...

- Welcomed 52 new patrons to the CFPL.
- Trained volunteer drivers and spread the word about the return of the Direct-to-You home delivery service for homebound patrons.
- Processed 138 museum pass reservations, the New England Aquarium being the top requested pass.
- Curated displays about medical field fiction and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month.
- Participated in webinars about collection development, DEI initiatives, and sustainability.

## Fowler Branch Library



- The Fowler Branch Library worked with the West Concord Village Community to execute the third annual Spring into West Concord. Staff helped coordinate the scavenger hunt, which ended up having 121 participants and over 50 donated prizes. The same day, Fowler hosted Art for All's opening of *Art from the Trail*, paintings created in community workshops as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail mural that was unveiled.
- Girls Who Code completed their year with a Trashion Show, presenting a website they built and outfits with wearable technology that they designed and sewed in the Workshop.
- Art for All hosted an end-of-the-year party in the Fowler Backyard for their Arts & Crafts Club, which has been meeting weekly since January. They plan to continue meeting over the summer.

- Ongoing programs attracted large audiences. Children’s preschool programs in particular experienced a boost at the end of May during the programming break leading up to summer reading.

## Innovation & Communications

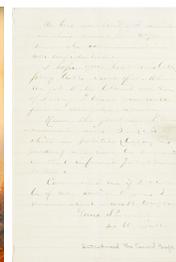


- The Innovation & Communications staff are excited to open the Workshop makerspace to the public beginning Saturday, June 10. This space was made possible by the generous support of the Concord Free Public Library Corporation.
- The Library partnered with the Concord Bookshop to advertise the makerspace’s opening in a window display, featuring wooden garland and vinyl decals manufactured by staff on the Workshop’s equipment.
- The Workshop’s summer series will run June to August and feature weekly classes and drop-in projects including:
  - a weekly K-5 program, Make-It Club
  - a weekly knitting group, Knitters’ Workshop
  - a Sustainable Makes series in partnership with the Library’s Green Team
  - Laser cutting, embroidery, and glass-etching workshops

## Technical Services

- In February, March, April, and May, Technical Services staff cataloged and processed a total of 768, 678, 677, and 575 new titles respectively.
- The Library acquired board games for the Library of Things collection; Technical Services processed and added this new format to the collection.
- Tech Services staff are currently weeding the CD and DVD collection and replacing vinyl cases in poor condition for items staying in the collection.
- Tech Services staff are actively participating in the Library Sustainability Committee meetings to take action to make the Library greener.

## Special Collections



- In honor of the Concord Free Public Library’s 150th Anniversary, the Concord Museum, the CFPL, and the CFPL Corporation’s William Munroe Special Collections collaborated on a special exhibition, [A Perpetual Invitation](#), featuring the Library’s art collection at the Concord Museum until September 4, 2023.
- On May 10, Skylight Studios sculptor/conservator Lisa Benson completed cleaning the seated Emerson statue and several marble busts.
- On May 17, 80 patrons attended [a lecture](#) presented by Professor Daniel Shealy entitled “May Alcott and the Town of Concord: The Making of an Artist.”
- Special Collections served 53 on-site researchers and answered 80 reference requests received via phone and email.

- Special Collections Curator Anke Voss continues to serve on the 250th Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee, the Concord Reformatory Prison Taskforce, and the Miller Committee.
- On May 6, Special Collections Assistant Curator Jessie presented at the CFPL Corporation's Next Chapter event. Jessie also chairs the Library's 150th Anniversary Committee.
- 20 attended a program presented by Special Collections on May 23 and 50 attended a program presented by Special Collections at the American Literature Association Conference on May 25.
- There will be "Gallery Tours with the Curators" at the Concord Museum on June 16, July 14, and August 18 at 12:00 pm.
- On June 22 at 7:00 pm, Special Collections will host a program titled "Celebrating Ralph Waldo Emerson: Filmmaker Michael Maglaras and Writer James Marcus in Conversation" in the Goodwin Forum at the Main Library.

### Administration and Staffing

- At the Main Library, Danielle Arana joined the Children's Library staff as a part-time Library Assistant and Eve Bourbeau-Allard joined the Circulation staff as a full time Library Assistant.
- The Library staff welcomed Doug Meagher, the Library Corporation's new Facilities Manager. Doug worked as the Deputy Town Manager in Concord several years ago, overseeing large renovation projects including the Town House and Harvey Wheeler. As the Library Corporation's Facilities Manager he will work with the Library Director, Custodial staff, and the Trustees to oversee the maintenance of the Library buildings and grounds.
- The staff wished Cary Stough well as he left in early June to pursue his PhD in Iowa. He will be sorely missed by many parents, children, and teens in the community, as well as his library colleagues.
- The Library is currently accepting applications to fill the Teen Librarian position.