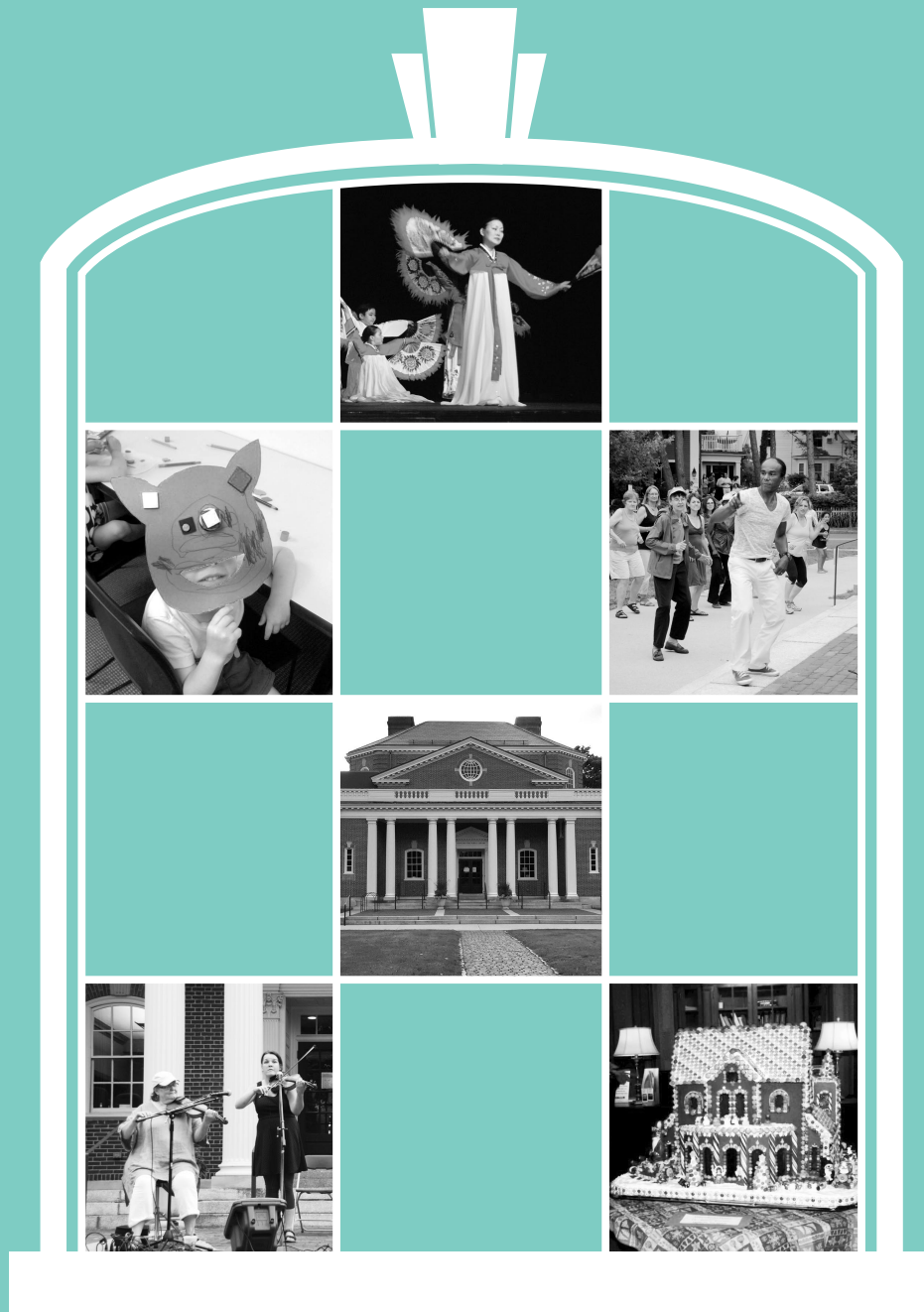


CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION



Your .
window
into the Library

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

CONCORD
FREE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
CORPORATION

129 Main Street
Concord, MA 01742
978-318-3355
concordlibrary.org

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Dear Citizen of Concord,

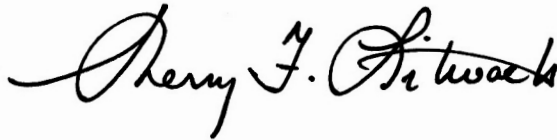
We are pleased to send you this Annual Report for fiscal year 2014-2015 from the Concord Free Public Library Corporation.

We are especially grateful for the strong support of our Annual Appeal. We are pleased to report that we exceeded our goal and enjoyed increases in total amount, size of gifts, and number of donors. We take this strong show of support as a challenge to meet and exceed our services to the Town and greater community.

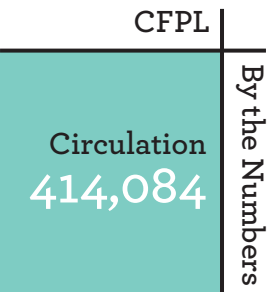
The Library Corporation contributed almost \$600,000 to the Library in FY 2014-2015, including \$125,000 to the Town for books and materials. The balance of our contribution was spent on the maintenance and improvement of the Buildings and Grounds for all three Library properties and for acquisitions, exhibitions, and cataloging for the William Munroe Special Collections. We are thrilled to see our facilities come alive with literacy activities, theatre, music, art, exhibits, poetry, film, meetings, and lectures for all ages free and open to the public.

It has been about two years since we purchased the property next door to the Library at 151 Main Street. During this time we have been busy doing research and gathering information about how libraries are evolving and what would be best for our community. We are creating a plan to meet our future needs as well as how to reach these goals. You can look forward to improvements and enhancements in children's services, teen services, technology, and special collections, as well as many other areas. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Warmest wishes,



Sherry Forman Litwack
President, CFPL Corporation



WILLIAMS
SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, as a result of a generous bequest by Charles H.S. Williams, the Library Trustees offer scholarships to Concord students studying the Arts. The Library identifies qualified candidates for the scholarships through a collaboration with the Concord Carlisle Scholarship Fund. This academic year, the Corporation will grant four scholarships, each in the amount of \$2750, as follows:

Our newest recipient, Timothy Collins, is a freshman at Dennison College. Our returning scholars include Edward Pioli who is attending the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, class of 2016; Siena Yerby who is attending the Pratt Institute, class of 2017; and Kayleen Honan, who is attending Syracuse University, class of 2018. Our current scholars are all graduates of Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. The Library Corporation is proud to support these young people as they pursue their studies.

We encourage high school seniors who reside in Concord or attend secondary school in Concord AND who are intending to pursue further study in the Arts after graduation to consider applying for the scholarship in the spring. Please visit ccscholarshipfund.org for more information.

Comings and Goings

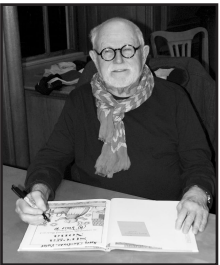
RETIREMENTS:
Milda Contoyannis, *Senior Library Assistant*,
32 years of service
Patty Diotte, *Library Assistant*,
14 years of service

NEW EMPLOYEES:
Greg Carter, *Circulation Assistant*
Irene Cunningham, *Library Page*
Sally Ducha, *Library Page*
Olivia Hanselman, *Library Page*
Nathalie Harty, *Head of Reference Services*
Yvonne Medina, *Library Assistant*
Laurie Tousignant, *Development Assistant*
Emma Patterson Ware, *Library Page*

Leslie Riedel
Lecture for
Young People

Caldecott Honor and Newbery award-winner Tomie dePaola was the featured children's book author/artist for this year's Riedel lecture. Barbara Elleman, past President of the American Library Association and Caldecott Committee judge, interviewed Mr. dePaola for the event. Past participants include a distinguished list of children's authors and artists, including David Macaulay, Chris Van Allsburg, Lois Lowry, and Jerry Pinkney. The lecture series was started as a memorial event through the generosity of the Riedel family.

Tomie
dePaola



Exceptional
books
this year

FICTION
A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James
The Fishermen: a Novel by Chigozie Obioma
A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson
In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blume
Euphoria by Lily King

NON-FICTION
The Brain's Way of Healing: Remarkable Discoveries and Recoveries From the Frontiers of Neuroplasticity by Norman Doidge
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert
On the Move: A Life by Oliver W. Sacks
Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande
The Road to Character by David Brooks
The Wright Brothers by David McCullough
Dead Wake: the Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

Library Director's Report

incorporated into a 5-year service plan and submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, which is a requirement in order for libraries to qualify for Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds. Other noteworthy accomplishments included: the expansion of service hours at the Fowler Branch Library with the earlier opening time of 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays; a summer reading program for adults; and the implementation of wireless printing and expansion of wireless broadband service at the Main Library in order to keep up with the growing demand.

Several special events took place during the year including a celebration of Korean Family Month and Asian-Pacific Heritage Month in partnership with the Korean Cultural Society of Boston and the Umbrella Center for the Arts. Program highlights included an art exhibit in the gallery, Korean arts and crafts and a festive concert of contemporary and traditional Korean music, followed by a beautiful fan dance complete with traditional costume. The library also hosted a very successful series, “Concord Reads about Abraham Lincoln,” which coincided with the Special Collections exhibit, “*This man grew according to the need*”: Concord and Abraham Lincoln and included programs and activities for all ages.

In late January the library hosted our first Food for Fines program, where residents were able offer a food product in exchange for fine amnesty. We collected and delivered approximately 6 boxes to Concord's Open Table food pantry and are grateful to the Concord community for your support.



Circulation colleagues thank the Concord community

Staff development has remained a priority with colleagues attending both national and regional library conferences, an in-house refresher training on customer service, and a technology fair sponsored by the Minuteman Library Network. We were also pleased to send two supervisors to the six-week MMPA/UMass Supervisory Leadership Program for local government managers and employees.

We are looking forward to the forthcoming launch of a new library logo and complete redesign of the library's web site. Please subscribe to our online newsletter in order to receive progress updates throughout the year. Thank you to my colleagues at the Concord Free Public Library for their dedicated service to the Concord community, to the Library Corporation Trustees, Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, and our many volunteers and supporters.

Kerry Cronin, Library Director

The Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) enjoyed another busy and productive year. Community engagement around future library services was one of the most rewarding activities. Last fall we spoke with residents in 12 separate focus groups regarding future library services in the areas of technology, collections, programs, and space. This feedback was

STEAM Grant

The Concord Free Public Library will collaborate with schools — public and private — in expanding hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) activities at the Main and Fowler libraries that will support the science curriculum. The library will collaborate with town departments, environmental groups, arts organizations, and recreational groups in providing indoor/outdoor learning spaces that will highlight nature and art experiences for the whole family. The STEAM grant activities will be based on the life and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau with activities based on natural and applied sciences: building, growing, cooking, constructing, creating. The STEAM theme will be literature based with the addition of StoryWalks, book bags, storytimes, and puppet shows. The Full STEAM Ahead grant will give preschool children and their caregivers the opportunity to play and explore together at the library, indoors and outdoors, for the many hours and days open to all in the community.



Science exploration at the Library

THE FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library is a nonprofit organization of more than 1,200 members. We serve the Library and the community in four ways:

First, we fund book and media purchases, special programs, and Library staff professional development. Second, we develop and present free programs at the Library, including concerts, readings, and film series. Third, we develop and present free programs at the Library for children and youth. Fourth, we do community outreach that includes providing donated books to Open Table and Concord Prison Outreach.

In 2014 we presented the annual Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History to Nathaniel Philbrick, bestselling author of *Bunker Hill*, *Mayflower*, and *In the Heart of the Sea*. Our gifts and programs are funded through memberships, sales of donated books, and sales of *Historic Concord*, a book published by the Friends. Online sales are managed by Empire Books, and books are for sale every day on the Friends Book Sale shelves at the Main and Fowler Libraries.

The Friends' Holiday and June book sales are our biggest sources of revenue, and they're also much-loved and well-attended community events. The Holiday Sale in December 2014 raised more than \$8,400, and the June 2015 Book Sale on the lawn raised a record-breaking \$21,000. The heart and soul of our operation is a team of over a dozen enthusiastic volunteers who sort the many volumes donated to the Friends each year and prepare them for the book sales. If you have books you'd like to donate, see the reference librarian at the main library.



The Friends' Holiday Book Sale



Nathaniel Philbrick, recipient of the Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History

CFPL

eBooks and eAudiobooks
34,635

By the numbers

To learn more, or to join the Friends:

WEB: cfplfriends.org

E-MAIL: friends@concordlibrary.org

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/concordlibraryfriend

TWITTER: twitter.com/ConcordLibrary

Special Collections Report

In 2014/2015, through the gallery exhibition and accompanying lecture series “*This man grew according to the need*”: *Concord and Abraham Lincoln*, the William Munroe Special Collections commemorated the national Civil War anniversary. Our slate of speakers included Daniel Shealy (who opened the exhibition in November), Jayne Gordon, Rick Frese, and Len Gougeon. The exhibition and all of the programs were well-attended and generated lively dialogue. The staff working with other library departments on additional public programming relating to Abraham Lincoln provided added value to this endeavor.

Growing the collections was, as always, a major focus. A number of gifts were added, among them: working papers for his books on Emerson and Thoreau donated by Robert Dale Richardson, Jr.; an early twentieth-century photograph of a Concord baseball team by Sherry Dee Mobley; an 1864 deed of property from Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar to John Cheney by Roberta Bograd; four charming Italian sketch-books of Ada Shepard (governess to the Hawthorne children) by Susan Abele; an 1898 military photograph and an Edward Waldo Emerson painting and artist’s palette by Lawrence Roberts; records and materials relating to the Concord Minute Men by John Dennis; a Mavis Viles painting of the Concord Band by Linda Bond and family in memory of Donald and Kathryn Bond; and further installments of ongoing donations by Lowell S. Smith and Joseph C. Wheeler.

Also, with the support of the Library Corporation, we made several significant purchases. In February, following a tip by one of our regular researchers, we bought a collection of Safford family letters written between 1815 and 1844. Three Safford siblings (Lucy, Ward Duren, and Mark) were Barrett descendants and sometime Concord residents who came here from New Hampshire specifically to work. In May, we purchased two lovely letters at auction, one undated by Louisa May Alcott, one written by Ralph Waldo Emerson to Robert Carter in 1852. It’s wonderful to be able to build upon the strengths of our holdings. With this ability comes the responsibility to process materials so that they are available for research use. One of the most important departmental efforts of 2014/2015 was the processing of our recently much-expanded collection of First Parish in Concord records. Funded through an appropriation by the Library Corporation to the Town, Janaya Kizzie spent a full year organizing, arranging, and describing some ninety linear feet of material (see separate report). Administration and staff are delighted that a second appropriation for her work as a processing archivist has been made for projects in the current fiscal year.

In addition to Janaya’s work, Curator Leslie Perrin Wilson and Staff Assistant Constance Manoli-Skocay processed smaller collections throughout the year, and Technical Services Associate Robert C. Hall mounted their completed finding aids on concordlibrary.org. Examples of collections for which finding aids were mounted this year include the Joseph Coolidge Wheeler Papers, the Robert Dale Richardson, Jr., Papers, the Mary W. McClintock Collection, and the Theodore L. Smith Concord-Related Spanish-American War Collection. Bob Hall also made headway with

the continuing project to digitize the products of the Concord Oral History Program and to make them accessible on the library website.

Active staff scholarship has traditionally been supported by leading rare book and manuscript repositories. In keeping with this pattern, over the past year Leslie Wilson has collaborated with Joel Myerson (Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina) in the preparation of an iconography of all known lifetime images of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The two have an almost-completed manuscript to show for their joint efforts.



IN MEMORIAM
Joyce T. Woodman
Staff Assistant,
Special Collections

Long-time members of the department and other library staff were saddened this spring by the passing of Joyce T. Woodman, who served as Staff Assistant in Special Collections for decades and who retired in 2005. We trust that some of the exciting activities planned for 2015/2016—including a collaborative exhibition and lecture series with the Concord Museum to celebrate the 1936 book *Men of Concord*—will reflect and reinforce the professional values and standards maintained by Joyce and others among our predecessors in carrying out the library’s mission.

REPORT ON THE FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD PROJECT

In June, the Concord Free Public Library’s William Munroe Special Collections completed a project to make the expanded records of the First Parish Church in Concord available for research. The First Parish, one of the largest Unitarian Universalist churches in the country, was founded in 1636 and has touched the lives of countless Concordians. The expanded records, processed by a project archivist position funded by the Concord Free Public Library Corporation, reveal new resources regarding Concord’s social history, the development of a New England church from Puritanism to Unitarian Universalism, and the life of Dana McLean Greeley, first President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The significance of the collection stems from its deep connection to the history and landscape of the town. Established a year after the town of Concord was founded, the church acted as a spiritual and social center of the community. The meeting house was an important building as the American Revolution began; it was used for Provincial Congress meetings in 1774 and 1775, and in 1775 and 1776 for classes of Harvard College, which was temporarily moved from Cambridge to Concord. The church was administered and funded by the town government until church and state were separated in 1855. As the church moved away from its Congregationalist roots and into Unitarianism; its progression was marked by communal controversy, most notably in 1826 when members left to form the Trinitarian Congregational Church and in 1970 when vocal liberal minister Arthur Jellis stepped down. Some of the largest growth of the church occurred during the ministry of Jellis’ successor, Dana

McLean Greeley. A highlight of his ministry was the 1985 celebration of the church’s 350th anniversary, which included the compilation and publication of the definitive history of the First Parish, *Meeting House on the Green*.

The First Parish in Concord collection was deposited mainly by the First Parish in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. The records were formally deeded to the Library Corporation in 2004. The collection guide was made available to researchers in 2005, but, as the First Parish continued to donate records, quickly became out of date. By 2014, the collection had grown from 30 linear feet (about 23 boxes) to over 90 linear feet (over 150 boxes), comprised of a wide variety of materials: manuscripts, letters, reports, photographs, video, news clippings, hymn-books, bibles and artifacts. It became apparent that the collection needed to be reorganized and described once more in order to highlight the useful new material.

In June of 2014, with the funding of the Concord Free Public Library Corporation, Special Collections undertook a project to organize and list the records. The project was implemented by project archivist Janaya Kizzie. Over the course of a year, Janaya reviewed all of the records in the First Parish in Concord collection. She then wrote a detailed description of the contents of every folder and box, making sure all records in the collection were in order and safely housed in acid-free containers. Following work with the physical records, Janaya composed a history of the church and an analysis of the organization’s functions. She also created an appendix to the guide listing sermons available as transcripts and

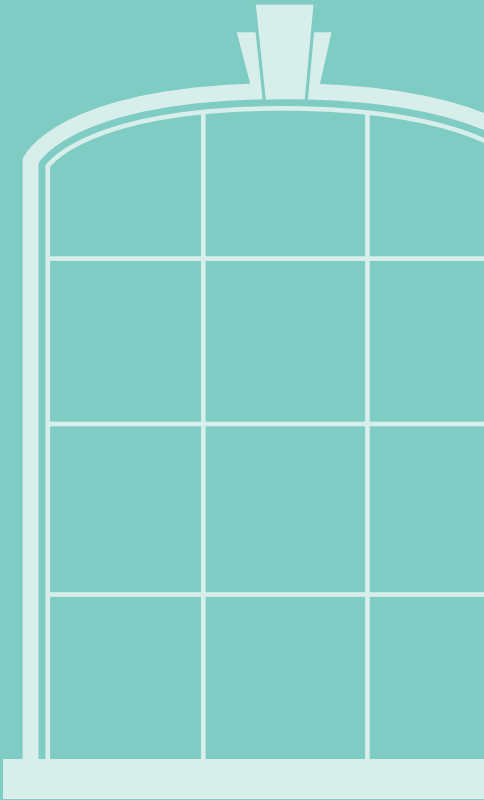
audio recordings in the collection; the index lists the over 1500 sermons in the collection by author, date and title. Finally, Janaya worked with Technical Services Associate Librarian, Robert Hall, to create a layout that would make the wealth of information navigable for researchers. The end result of the project is an extensive guide to the records spanning over 140 pages which is available on the Concord Free Public Library Special Collections website: concordlibrary.org/scollect/Fin_Aids/FPC.htm

Among the records are a substantial collection of photographs documenting the church’s parishioners, staff, grounds and events; vital statistics regarding parishioner’s births, marriages and deaths dating back to 1858; Henry David Thoreau’s 1841 membership sign-off; Emerson’s 1865 reaffirmation of membership; Louisa May Alcott’s signature demonstrating her membership in the Women’s Parish Association, circa 1881; extensive collections of ministers’ professional papers, including the records of Dana McLean Greeley; and property records regarding historic buildings cared for by the First Parish, including records related to the stewardship of the Wright Tavern. The records brought to light during the project will aid researchers from the community and beyond, and enrich the Library’s already significant historical documentation of Concord.

CFPL	
Number of registered Concord borrowers	By the numbers
11,889	

Thanks to our donors, we raised over \$165,000 this year.

This is a record high for the Library Annual Fund.



Each year, the Annual Fund dollars are applied towards a total of over \$600,000 the Corporation uses to maintain and update the physical buildings and grounds as well as fund special projects, book purchases, and educational events at the Library. Some of the projects this year were:

- 1) Funding for archivist position for First Parish Project
- 2) Special Events programs on Lincoln and Alcott
- 3) Updates to the elevators in both Library buildings
- 4) Ice dam damage control
- 5) Exterior painting at the Main Library
- 6) Grounds upkeep for both Library buildings
- 7) Tree removal at Fowler
- 8) Updates to the heating system at the Main Library
- 9) \$125,000 in book purchases
- 10) Carpet replacement and cleaning at the Main Library



Louisa May Alcott visits the Library

As you know, there is a lot of upkeep to taking care of historic structures. The Library Corporation, acting as stewards to the two Library buildings, as well as the new building at 151 Main Street, takes great care each year in prioritizing the funding of maintenance projects.

Thanks to our strong support from our donors, the Library is in great shape to greet locals and visitors year round.

CFPL

Library website page views per month

140,000+

By the Numbers

Honor Roll of Donors

In the list that follows, we gratefully acknowledge all individuals, businesses and foundations who made gifts to the Library between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. CFPL is stronger because of the generosity of these donors – thank you!

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Rosse Family Charitable Foundation
The Sharpe Family Foundation / Douglas and Anne Sharpe
United Woman’s Club of Concord

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Gifts in Memory of Joyce Woodman
Gifts in Memory of Elliot Ring
Gifts in Memory of Mary Krueger
Sarah Curtis Garth Memorial Book Fund

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