

## Reference Services

- Reference answered 382 reference questions, booked 283 meeting rooms, assisted 106 patrons with technology, and advised 5 patrons on reading choices. 4 patrons used the Library's notary service.
- Barbara created a display in the Rotunda of cozy mystery novels. Meanwhile, Michelle created a display highlighting new non-fiction books.
- The department hosted a number of exciting programs in December including a self publishing workshop with author Dora Farkas, a Soul Collage workshop with Lauren Owenmark, and a walk for well-being with Lara Wilson. The Tuesday Book Discussion group had a lively discussion of the book *Big Trouble*, by Dave Barry, while the Cookbook Club enjoyed potluck recipes at their monthly gathering.



## Youth Services

### Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 4 programs in the very quiet month of December with a total attendance of 26 teens.
- Our Magic the Gathering draft program on Saturday, December 21st was once again the big draw, even bringing in teens eager to begin winter break.
- The student population was out in force for study sessions in December, however, with large groups using the teen room, study rooms, commons, and any makeshift study space we could provide.

### Children's Library

- The Children's Library enjoyed a busy December; regular storytimes and craft programs remained a popular draw to the Library. One highlight of our regular programming this month was Alphabet Storytime, where kids were invited to meet not only a farmer (from local farm Gaining Ground) but also a Culinary Arts student (visiting us from Minuteman High School). Minuteman students from the Early Childhood program also visited Alphabet Storytime to observe Senior Library Assistant Lauren McClure in her element.
- December also brought the happy continuation of the Library's partnership with Concord-Carlisle SEPAC to offer caregivers and educators the second event in the *Transforming Childhood Expertise, Innovation, and Community Development* series. "Innovative Currents: Outdoor Learning in K-8 Education," which focused on the benefits of outdoor education, featured Rivers and Revolutions Educators from CCHS (including Will Kemeza, James O'Shea, Agatha Wozniak, Ashley Cohane, and Tracie Dunn) and Angel Charles, Director of Student Services for

Concord-Carlisle Regional School District in discussion with Eavan Miles Mason, Ph.D. (Neuropsychologist, KidCentered, Concord, MA).

- Children's library staff extends heartfelt thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring all special Winter Break programming for children, including:
  - A Gingerbread Party celebrating the arrival of Dr. Rescenti's amazing gingerbread house, where 80 children and their caregivers decorated cookies, made gingerbread crafts, and played with gingerbread play-dough;
  - The Squishy Egg Hunt, where library staff hid 150 eggs (all with squishies inside!) for children to hunt and find in the Children's Room;
  - A Sock Skating Party with snacks, crafts, and cocoa;
  - A very special New Year's Crafty Tuesday where children made their very own custom party hats;
  - And the returning "Drive-in" Movie program, where children made cardboard box cars and then enjoyed snacks and shows while sitting in their brand-new cars.



## Circulation

- December was a busy month for the circulation department as the total number of items that were checked out and renewed at both branches was 26,781. Also, 17,246 items were returned at both branches and each one of these items returned was processed by a staff member.
- The Circulation team at the Main Branch welcomed two new staff members. Bart Leib joined the circulation staff as the new circulation assistant. Rowan Trogani is the newest member of the paging team.
- The corridor displays for December reflected seasonal themes of Gatherings/Celebrations and Books with Snow (books with the word "snow" on the title and illustrations of snow on the cover)
- Winter decor has festooned the circulation desk and beyond. Winter birds, forest creatures and snowmen have added some light and color during these days of winter.





## Fowler Library

- Fowler had a festive month, starting by participating in the West Concord Holiday Stroll. Mothers Out Front demonstrated the induction burner with mulled cider, ArtScape had a second reception for the Generations of Artists community show, and staff provided citrus garland and salt dough ornament making for drop in crafting. Extra garland parts became coveted Take and Makes.
- Adult programming has hit its stride, attracting dedicated attendees to the extremely popular weekly yoga class as well as the faithful crew who sustain Stitch Circle, English Conversation Circle, and Art for All Abilities, as well as our staff-led book clubs, Book-a-Mystery, Fowler Afoot, and Building Community Book Club. This month, Laurie Engdahl led a well-received Needle Felting Ornament class.
- Children's programming also continues strong, culminating with the third annual Noon Year's Eve, which was a joyous, confetti-filled celebration to rival any countdown to midnight.



## Innovation & Communications



- Catch a glimpse of the Children's Library's Family Tree at the Concord Museum! The dragons were created using the Workshop's 3D printers!
- The Workshop hosted a variety of creative workshops this month! Patrons created gelli plate art, custom printed charcuterie boards, upcycled container candles, and sustainably sourced gift wrap.

## Technical Services

- In December Tech Services ordered, received, catalogued and processed 636 items and added them to the Library collections.

## Special Collections

- Special Collections served 67 patrons and answered 60 reference requests received on-site, via phone, and email (Special Collections was closed December 26-27, 2025).

- We had a visit from a Latinist who works to increase Latin learning and speaking, particularly among women. She asked what resources we had that utilized Latin so she could show her group of female educators material in the archives. We searched our collections and found an old textbook, a book from Emerson's library, and manuscript material from several collections. Later that week, three teachers from Concord-Carlisle High School came with her to spend an hour in the reading room, reviewing the manuscripts. Two of the manuscripts came from the Concord Antiquarian Society and proved to be the most interesting to the teachers. Both are church documents printed on vellum, and the teachers hope to come back with some of their students to translate them. Another document included a translation by Bessie Keyes Hudson of Concord, which the teachers thought might make for a good comparison exercise. We hope to see them back in Special Collections again this spring.
- Our part-time project archivists continue processing the Town of Concord's Celebration Collection and assist us in assessing and migrating our digital content to a single platform. They also provide reference services and help with accessioning and processing.
- This was the last month of our fall exhibition, [Alicia Keyes: New Pathways to Beauty](#). The exhibition featured Concord artist Alicia Keyes's paintings, sketches from Special Collections, and pieces on loan from the Emerson and Keyes families and the RWE Memorial Association.

### Administration and Staffing

- The Library welcomed Steven Plasse as the full time Office Coordinator. Steven is a key third member of the Administration team and will be processing the library's payroll, accounts payable and receivable, and managing public room reservations.
- Library Department Heads and Administration drafted the department's report for the Town's Annual Report. Administration also submitted the FY26 Budget Request to the Town Manager's office.