

Reference Services

- Reference answered 360 reference questions, booked 297 meeting rooms, assisted 189 patrons with technology, and advised 7 patrons on reading choices. One patron used the Library's notary service.
- The 32nd annual Concord Festival of Authors was very successful. Many thanks to the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library for sponsoring the Festival, to CFPL staff members for staffing events, and a special thank you to Stephan Bader for attending every single program and selling books! Total attendance for the CFA programs hosted by the Library was 643, with the most popular program being the Leslie Riedel Award for Excellence in Children's Literature with author and illustrator Lincoln Peirce (photos below).

Date	Event	In-Person	Virtual
10/17/2024	CFA Keynote Speaker Rajani LaRocca	22	
10/19/2024	Ruth Ratner Miller Award: Jacqueline Jones	80	
10/20/2024	Poetry Panel featuring Andrea Cohen & Heather Treseler	27	
10/23/2024	Richard Higgins, author of <i>Thoreau's God</i>	50	
10/26/2024	Breakfast with the Authors featuring Steve Almond, Crystal King & Margot Livesey (Moderated by Dr. Suzanne Koven)	45	
10/27/2024	Leslie Riedel Award: Lincoln Peirce	130	
10/28/2024	Mystery Night featuring Gary Braver, Joanna Schaffhausen & James Ziskin (Moderated by Kate Flora)	37	
10/29/2024	Natalie Dykstra, author of <i>Chasing Beauty: the life of Isabella Stewart Gardner</i>	109	
10/30/2024	Fowler Afoot Book Club featuring Jean Duffy, author of <i>Soccer Grannies</i>	9	
10/30/2024	Joel Myerson Lecture presented by Professors Brigitte Bailey (University of New Hampshire), Leslie Eckel (Suffolk University), and Megan Marshall (Emerson College)	80	54

- Additional programs included two virtual genealogy classes about finding your Italian and Irish ancestors. These classes were organized by the Council on Aging and sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library.
- Kate Keith-Fitzgerald put together a Halloween Display called "Monsters We Love", while Barbara's display included books featured in the Concord Festival of Authors.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 9 programs in October with a total attendance of 58 teen attendees and 37 adult attendees.
- The Concord Carlisle Spectrum Club visited us on Thursday, October 3rd both to make some fun swag in the workshop, and to give their input on the next Concord Town Pride. The teen librarian is working closely with the club to make sure they are represented at the Town Pride committee meetings.
- The teen librarian ran two informational presentations on how to facilitate successful Dungeons and Dragons programs at libraries. The Central Mass Library Association's programming committee requested the first presentation on Friday, October 11th in Charlton, and their North of Boston Library Exchange counterpart hosted at North Reading library on Friday, October 18th. Feedback was very positive. Members of the SAILS system programming committees have now requested this presentation as well.
- The teen librarian met with a representative of the Nashoba Learning Group in Bedford several times this month to coordinate on hosting some of their life skills students as scheduled library volunteers. The first group of these students and their job coaches began their training on Thursday, October 24th, and will be with us on Thursdays for the foreseeable future. If the partnership proves successful, Nashoba Learning Group plans to bring more volunteers on more days of the week.



Children's Library

- Children's Library staff rang in October with the return of the popular Adopt a Reading Pal Program! This program pairs children with special "Reading Pals," stuffed animals that they are encouraged to read with every day. This year, the program featured cats for the first time, and Children had the opportunity to experience several special programs including:
 - An adoption ceremony celebrating each child's meeting their reading pal for the first time,
 - A visit from Dr. Wu, a veterinarian from Great Road Animal Hospital, who taught kids all about caring for animals,
 - An opportunity to learn all about pet adoption and how to interact safely with both cats and dogs from Michelle from Baypath Humane Society,
 - the popular Library Walk, where children and their families have the chance to see behind the scenes at the Library,
 - and a visit from Jennifer Welborn, author of *Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals*, who led kids in pretend play and gave them the opportunity to be veterinarians for their Reading Pals!
- In partnership with the Library Corporation, Children's staff hosted another successful Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Kids used a variety of materials to spruce up their pumpkins, and then the kids had the opportunity to vote for their favorites to win. There were several stand-out pumpkins this year—even including an elephant pumpkin! Children's Library staff want to extend their thanks to Scimone Farm and Verrill Farm for donating the pumpkins used in the event.
- Also in partnership with the Library Corporation, the Children's Library hosted Lincoln Peirce, author of the wildly popular *Big Nate* graphic novels and fiction series for children. Lincoln Peirce was the 12th recipient of the Leslie Riedel Award for Excellence in Children's Literature, and he visited CFPL for an afternoon of fun including an author talk and book signing. Both the children and the library staff were thrilled to have the opportunity to

meet Lincoln, and Children’s Library staff thank the Library Corporation, CFPL’s own Children’s Librarian Karen Ahearn, and the Riedel family for making this event possible.



Circulation

- Both the Main and Fowler branches participated in the delivery count for Optima, our delivery service, for the week of Oct. 18-25. Over **2000 items** were sent in delivery for that week! Each of those items were processed by a staff member. Also, **115 bins** of items were delivered to both Main and Fowler during that week. Those bins contain holds for Concord patrons and Concord items returned to other MLN libraries. Each item in those bins are processed by circulation staff as well.
- The passes for the Museum of Fine Arts and the New England Aquarium had the highest usage. Both of those passes were checked out 16 times each.
- We have extended the invitation to staff who work in departments outside of circulation to create the hallway displays. For October, Andi Graceson, curated items for a display on Spooky Films and Spooky Reads.
- The circulation desk was adorned with jack-o-lanterns and birds in disguise. Staff noticed small children trying to sound out the word “pumpkin” as they were looking at the jack-o-lanterns.



Fowler Library



- Warm weather in October allowed for a range of programs to be held outdoors at Fowler Library, from a Seed Saving Workshop with Jess Myles at the beginning of the month to Sugar Skull decorating with Art for All to pumpkin carving using some of the pumpkins donated by Verrill Farm and Scimone Farm. Even many of the weekly storytimes were held outside in the West Concord Union Church’s Labyrinth Garden, and Messy Fun and Craft Labs were in the backyard.
- Other ongoing programs for both adults and children continue to draw regulars and new attendees. Book Clubs, English Conversation Circle, Stitch Circle, Art for All Abilities, and Gentle Flow Yoga have loyal followings, and Baby Time is the sweetest way to start the week.

- In our role as a Safe Routes to School partner, the library promoted the Walk, Ride, and Roll to School events at the beginning of the month. Fowler staff brought out the huskies from the Winter Walk to School to greet students as they commuted to and from Thoreau School.
- Weekly storytimes with Carousel and Concord Children’s Center strengthen the library’s connections with some of our youngest patrons.
- Fowler partnered with the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee in Discover West Concord Day to host a poetry reading featuring the poets of the West Concord Poetry Phone. Fowler staff also worked with Concord Family Network for their Halloween event.
- As part of the Concord Festival of Authors, the Fowler Afoot Book Club welcomed Jean Duffy, author of *Soccer Grannies: the South African Women who Inspire the World*.
- Patrons eagerly welcome Take and Make craft kits, made with help from volunteers. This month, Fowler gave out 210 kits, which included bird puppets, Jack O’Lantern jars, and bookshelf ghosts.



Innovation & Communications



- Our makers used 166 tools in the Workshop this month!
- The Workshop hosted its first Monumental (Re)Make Building Session this month! Learn more about our project for the 250th at cfpl.info/remake.
- The Workshop is collecting unneeded wrapping materials for a Sustainable Wrap Party this December with Alex Makes Art! Drop off your unwanted supplies in the designated bins in the Sudbury Road entrance and learn more at cfpl.info/wrapparty.

Technical Services

- Staff completed reclassification of the adult religions book collection.
- For the month of October, a staff member, representing the Library Green Team, attended the Social Justice Roundtable (DEI Commission and the League of Women Voters) and the Conservation Climate Coffee (Town of Concord).

Administration and Staffing

- The search for a full-time Office Coordinator continued, with several interviews scheduled for November. Interviews for fill vacancies for an evening and weekend Maintenance Custodian, a full-time Library Assistant, and a part-time Library page continued as well.