

Reference Services

- Reference staff answered 270 general reference questions in April and booked 130 meeting rooms for patrons. Staff assisted 89 patrons with technology questions and advised 12 patrons on their reading choices. One patron used the department's notary service.
- We had several interesting programs this month, including a PowerHouse presentation, in which Alice Finn of PowerHouse Assets gave a talk about investing, and a panel of three young adult authors, who spoke about their book *Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes* (photo below). In addition, the library collaborated with Be Well Be Here, COAR, and Carlisle DEICAC to present Stories of Us (live storytelling) at the library. The presenters were introduced by Radio Host Harry Harding.
- For this month's Cookbook Club (pictured below), participants made southwestern recipes. The Tuesday book discussion group discussed *This Side of Paradise*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- The library and Be Well Be Here co-hosted several mindfulness programs in April, including the weekly Thursday morning meditation, two lunchtime meditations and a walking meditation to celebrate Earth Day.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen Dungeons and Dragons has entered a new era: campaigns are now completely run by teens! We even made our own dungeon maps.
- Izzy Martino, CCHS sophomore, won the Teen Poetry Contest with her poem "Thoreau Street."
- During Spring Break, teens made personalized keychains, framed magazine collages, and carved rubber stamps.
- Teen Board Game Advisory Board continued to gain members and became obsessed with a new game: Karak.

Children's Library



- The Youth Services team had a fun April in the Children's Library with several special programs for Vacation Week including our inaugural LEGO Explorers program which was attended by over 50 kids!
- We also welcomed Avery Indermaur from Gaining Ground Farm for a special program where kids learned about seeds and pollinators and made their very own bird feeders.
- We closed out the week by welcoming back patron and staff favorite programmer Margaret McCandless for her Theater Improv workshop. By the end of the workshop, she had helped even the shyest kids feel comfortable enough to participate!
- Toward the end of the month, Milldam Preschool walked over to the library for a visit with Millie the Duck and to join Beth for Crafty Tuesday. Beth and superstar volunteer Karen Pettyjohn led Beth's regular crafters **and** over twenty preschoolers from Milldam in making (and sailing!) their very own sailboats.

Circulation

The Circulation Team...

- Circulation staff welcomed 63 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- Staff processed 205 museum pass reservations, with the New England Aquarium being the top draw.
- Our displays featured titles on the city of New York, gardening, and National Library Week.
- Circulation staff participated in webinars about collection development, DEI, new library software and other topics related to Circulation.

Fowler Library

- With warming weather, many Fowler programs moved outside in April, including Craft Lab, storytimes, Preschool Play, and Messy Fun.
- Ricardo Rosales led his popular monthly Musical Morning in Spanish and English on April 1.
- Laurie Engdahl kicked off the April vacation week with a Saturday watercolor workshop for teens and adults.
- Fowler hosted a third annual Seed Starting Workshop led by Jess Myles of Codman Community Farms, supporting our Seed Lending Library.
- Creating Take and Makes for bike nameplates, Fowler supported the Department for Transportation and Mobility with their Bike Share relaunch.
- Arts and Crafts Club with Art for All, English Conversation Circle, and Stitch Circle continue to meet weekly, attracting faithful crowds.



- Book-a-Mystery discussed *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill, and Fowler Afoot made a triumphant return, discussing *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean during National Library Week. Afternoon Tea Book Club, now run by members, had a full house to discuss *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Claire Pooley.
- Girls Who Code met in the Workshop to continue creating their "Trash-ion Show," incorporating wearable, codable technology into clothing they are making to support environmentalism.
- Working with the Library's Green Team, Fowler staff created a Poet-tree and gave out nature journals in the lead up to the native tree seedling giveaway for Arbor Day.

Innovation & Communications

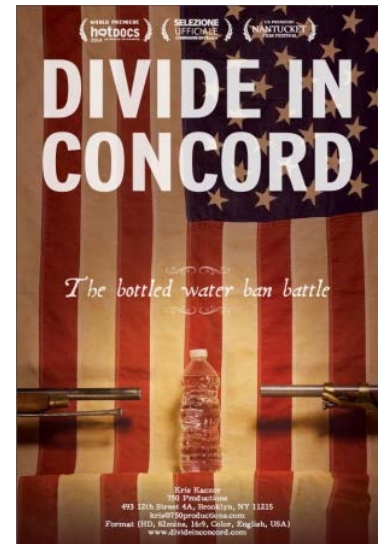


- The Innovation & Communications Team launched the first of four new digital signs at the Main Library. The new platform automatically lists upcoming events, so you can see everything that's happening as soon as you step in our doors.

- As we approach the opening of the Workshop makerspace, the Innovation & Communications Team is asking community members to share their thoughts and ideas through a Workshop Community Survey. Visit cfpl.info/workshopsurvey to help make the Workshop as awesome as it can be!

Special Collections

- Special Collections served 80 on-site researchers and answered 120 reference requests received on-site via phone and email.
- The Curator continues to serve on the 250th Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee and the Concord Reformatory Prison Taskforce; Jessie chairs the Library's 150th Anniversary Committee.
- **Programming & Outreach**
 - In honor of the CFPL's 150th Anniversary, the Concord Museum, the CFPL, and the CFPL Corporation's William Munroe Special Collections have collaborated on a special exhibition, A Perpetual Invitation, featuring the Library's art collection on view at the Concord Museum from March 24 to September 4, 2023.
 - On April 8, Anke presented to 22 Concord History/Guide Course students.
 - On April 13, Divide in Concord was screened in the Goodwin Forum to a small but enthusiastic audience. Jill Appel joined us on Zoom for a brief discussion following the film screening.
 - April 19-20, Lisa Benson of Skylight Studios resumed cleaning the Seated Emerson and several marble busts.
 - On April 27, Prof. Megan Marshall (right) presented "After Lives: Bringing Una Hawthorne Home" at the inaugural Joel Myerson annual lecture to more than 130 attendees, both in-person and virtually. Special Collections installed an exhibit in the Connector to accompany the lecture.
- **Upcoming Programs**
 - May 17 - 7 pm - [May Alcott & the Town of Concord: The Making of an Artist](#) - with Daniel Shealy
 - June 8 - 7 pm - [Mr. Agassiz's Puzzle-Box: What To Do With 19th-Century Science Today](#) - with Prof. Christoph Irmscher
 - June 16 – Gallery Tours with the Curators @ Concord Museum 12:00 pm
 - June 22 – 7 pm - [Michael Maglaras in Conversation with James Marcus: Celebrating Ralph Waldo Emerson](#).
 - July 14 – Gallery Tours with the Curators @ Concord Museum



Administration and Staffing

- George Jreije took office as CFPL's first Writer-In-Residence, and is planning a variety of writing workshops and programs for his six-month appointment. He will be holding office hours most Mondays from 5-7 PM, and has generously made himself available to patrons and staff via email. George is also working on a teen book club with Cary Stough and planning to attend the Afternoon Tea Book Club at Fowler in the summer.
- Two new substitute staff - Eve Bourbeau-Allard and Layla Hariry - joined the CFPL team to provide temporary support during several unexpected staff absences. They have proven to be wonderful additions to CFPL.
- Interviews for a full-time position in Circulation and a part-time position in Youth Services were successful and details about new staff members should be available in the near future.
- Administration has attended meetings of the Concord Behavioral Health Collaborative. Work is being done to develop a Mental Health Resources area in the library's rotunda. Library has offered to host programs by subgroups or town agencies supporting the Collaborative's mission.