

### Happy 150th Anniversary, Concord Free Public Library!



*Concord Free Public Library Staff, Library Corporation Development Staff, Friends of the Library, Library Trustees, and Library Committee Members all pose on October 1 after celebrating the Library's 150th anniversary with epic festivities including a proclamation, Joint Resolution, parade, cake, and many activities. Floral designs by the Concord Garden Club.*

### Reference Services

- Reference staff had an incredible time planning and taking part in the 150th celebrations! The celebration continued on the day following the anniversary, when Films at Fowler host Randall Warniers lectured on 150 years of cinema, which attracted 41 participants (*pictured below*).
- A whopping total of 143 people attended the World's a Stage production of *Richard II* between September 9, 10, 16, and 17. An average of 24 participants attended the Library's weekly meditation series. 16 enthusiastic patrons attended the September 12 book discussion of *Summer* by Edith Wharton, and 15 Cookbook Club members made recipes from the Milk Street Cookbooks (*pictured below*).
- Reference staff answered 337 general reference questions in September and reserved 169 meeting rooms. Staff assisted 119 patrons with technology or reader's advisory. 1 patron used the Library's notary service.



## Youth Services

### Teen Lounge

- The teens in the Dungeons and Dragons group began a rousing new campaign this September! They created fresh characters and embarked on an adventure in a brand new setting.
- Several teens and their caregivers Zoomed in to participate in Navigating College Admissions Successfully, presented by veteran specialists at Stand Out for College.
- Teen Lounge staff spent the rest of the month hard at work preparing for spooky season, with upcoming programs to include Paranormal Club, Building STEAM, Hack-O-Lanterns, Ultimate Werewolf, and much more!

### Children's Library

- Youth Services staff in both the Children's Library and the Teen Lounge were thrilled to take part in the Library's 150th celebration. The coloring sheets and temporary tattoos were almost as popular as the cupcakes! Staff would like to extend a special thanks to the stellar teen volunteers assisting with the event.
- Children's staff resumed a few community partnerships and programs in September. Musical Mondays returned with fan favorite performer Shon from Rockabye Beats and ukulele player extraordinaire Julie Stepanek, each drawing crowds of almost 200 kids and their caregivers. Children's staff united again with Concord Recreation for Beede and Books, as well as offering new Read to a Dog sessions with certified therapy dog Laddie the Collie.
- Make-It Club has continued to be an outstanding partnership between the Youth Services and Workshop staff. In September, kids made frog flycatcher STEM toys, cyanotype sunlight prints, fluffy slime, and most importantly, created signs and pennants to carry in CFPL's 150th parade!

### Circulation

- Circulation staff welcomed 108 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- Patrons reserved 150 museum passes, with the Museum of Fine Art in first place, the New England Aquarium in second place, followed by a tie between the Discovery Museum and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.
- Circulation staff had 16,676 transactions and created book displays called Explore New Worlds and Books About Books which have been an instant favorite with patrons!
- Circulation staff continued their involvement with professional development, the CFPL's [150th Anniversary](#), and Sustainability, contributing to the exciting launch of the [Climate Corner Newsletter](#)!
- Circulation was very active for [Climate Preparedness Week events](#) and keeps the ribbons for our [Climate Ribbon Project](#) flowing (pictured below)!



## Fowler Library

- *Walking*, the newest community art exhibit curated by ArtScape at Bradford Mill, opened at the beginning of September. Over twenty artists of all ages contributed, and the resulting show has elicited compliments from everyone attending programs in the Meeting Room where it is housed.
- Ricardo kicked off Fowler's open Saturdays with music in Spanish and English. Fowler staff also started offering Hindi storytimes, expanding the library's world language offerings.
- Working with Minute Man Arc, staff have re-introduced the Next Chapter Book Club. This group is for adults with developmental differences, and it involves reading and discussing a story together over lunch. The first meeting was a roaring success, and many members followed up by signing up for library cards.
- The local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution created a month-long display for Constitution Week. They also led a special occurrence of Craft Lab in which participants created quill pens and tried their hands at calligraphy in the style of the original signers (pictured below).
- Fowler had a wonderful Climate Prep Week, which started with a Houseplant Swap Party, featured two Earth-focused, family storytimes, and culminated in the first annual Bike Rodeo. The well-attended Bike Rodeo included safety checks and courses, bike decorating with Art for All, and a range of bike demos (pictured below).
- Jess Myles of Codman Community Farms returned to teach a wonderful Seed Saving workshop as part of the Seed Lending Library (pictured below).
- Fowler Staff joined in the 150th festivities, helping to create posters and flags for the parade (pictured below) and joyfully joining the incredible celebration on October 1.



## Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop got off to a busy start to the school year by more than doubling its weekly class offerings, including all-ages workshops in visible mending techniques, hydroponics, metal-stamped jewelry making, Cricut machines, and more.
- In addition, they welcomed back the lively and robust Girls Who Code program, fully in-person for the first time since 2020.

## Technical Services

- Tech Services staff were proud to provide sound system support on the Main Library Front Lawn for the 150th anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 1, which worked out great! A staffer from the Tech Services team also participated in the yearlong 150th celebration planning committee. What a memorable celebration!

## Special Collections

- The film *Ralph Waldo Emerson: Give All to Love* - directed by Michael Maglaras and co-sponsored by the Concord Free Public Library Corporation - premiered on September 30 at 2 PM at the Umbrella Arts Center with a whopping 270 attendees. A reception was held following the screening in the Rotunda of the Main Library.
- Special Collections staff invite the public to visit the newly renovated Main Library Art Gallery to view "Connecting the Community: An Exhibition to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Concord Free Public Library," a special exhibition curated by the William Munroe Special Collections, highlighting the history of the Library's buildings, services, and staff.

Additional displays on the Main Library First Floor on feature early circulation procedures, conservation of the Library's First Collection, and a selection of books checked out to Concord residents, including Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, in the first decade of the Library's operation. The exhibition runs through December 22.



## Administration and Staffing

- The Library welcomed new staff member Eun Lee as a Library Page at the Main Library.
- The Library Administration and all staff would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who made the Library's 150th anniversary celebrations so successful. For the October 1 Celebration, the Library in particular thanks:
  - Mr. Henry Dane and the Concord Selectboard, Town Manager Kerry Lafleur, Rep. Simon Cataldo, Rep. Carmine Gentile, and Sen. Mike Barrett, MacArthur Foundation President John Palfrey (our keynote speaker), Trustee John Boynton (Ralph Waldo Emerson), Orchard House Director Jan Turnquist (Louisa May Alcott), and Concord Garden Club floral designers Jeanne Hamilton and Stephanie Haims, as well as Crosby Design, Minuteman Media Network, and the Municipal Light Plant, Public Works, Police, and Fire Departments for their support.
  - Our appreciation goes to the Concord Carlisle High School Pep Band led by Chris Nocce and the Concord Minute Men led by Carl Sweeney for their stellar musical performances.
  - Thank you to our 150th Celebrations Event Committee including Library Corporation President Sherry Litwack, Development Manager Sofia Ghannam, Friends Board Members Matt Boger, Hayley Maybury, Rebecca Lemaitre, and Richard Fahlander, Library Committee Members Laura Klein, Farhanah Sheets, and Sara Pacelle, who all helped with the planning and execution of the October 1st event.
  - Thank you as well to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Staff Committee including Committee Chair and Assistant Curator Jessie Hopper, and Library Staff members Rachel D'Amore-Bonish, Barbara Gugliuzza, Ricky Sirois, Michelle John, Andi Graceson, Liz Clayton, Karen Ahearn, and Laura Mills.
  - Thank you to Library custodians Hector Arana-Ruano and Connor Valliere.
- **Finally, thank you to all of the community members who celebrated with us and the volunteers and Library staff who made the September 29th - October 2nd events and our ongoing anniversary celebrations so successful.**