

Reference Services

- Reference staff answered 355 general reference questions in August and booked 200 meeting rooms. Staff helped 138 patrons with their technology questions and advised 12 patrons on their reading choices.
- The Reference Department received 56 applications for the open reference librarian position. Barbara, the Head of Reference, is currently conducting first round interviews, along with Reni Cunningham, the Circulation Supervisor, and Nate Smith, the Town Archivist.
- Eleven people attended the discussion of poetry by T.S. Elliot on August 11, while 17 people created recipes from the cookbooks *Ruffage* and *Nothing Fancy* on August 12. Meanwhile, there was an average of 25 participants for Thursday morning meditation in August.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Erick Gordy, Teen Librarian, to the Youth Services team! Erick comes to CFPL with many years of experience as a teen librarian, a talent for cosplay, and an extensive Magic the Gathering card collection. We are looking forward to a fantastic fall in the Teen Lounge, including:

- the triumphant return of Dungeons and Dragons and Magic the Gathering,
- Spooky (and not-so-spooky) board gaming nights,
- and a monthly STEAM program in the Workshop!

Children's Library

The Youth Services team called a wrap on another wonderful Summer Reading Program and has been preparing for the fall programming season at the Main Library! We're looking forward to...

- the second annual Adopt a Reading Pal series,
- a parent programming series focusing on supporting children as they learn to read,
- and most of all, a visit from author Chris van Dusen, author and illustrator of the *If I Built* and *Mister Magee* series (and much, much more)!

Circulation

The Circulation Team...

- Circulation staff welcomed 100 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- Circulation had 19,573 total transactions in August, and several circulation staff received compliments from patrons and staff from other libraries.
- Circulations book display themes included our Writer-in-Residence, George Jreije, and Wacky Wednesday related reads. "Staff Picks" remain a steady favorite with patrons and puzzle donations and usage are impressive.
- Circulations August Wacky Wednesdays continued with Space, Under the Sea, and Dinosaurs. The dinosaurs were so popular, they are still with us!
- Circulation staff continued involvement with professional development, the CFPL's 150th Anniversary, and Sustainability, with the recent staff composting project going very well.
- Circulation staff are looking forward to the [Climate Preparedness Week events](#) at the end of September!



Fowler Library

- Along with the Main Library, Fowler staff joined in the August Minuteman Library Crawl, a coordinated effort across the regional network to encourage patrons to visit neighboring libraries and learn about the many and often unexpected resources available to community members.
- August means Wacky Weeks! Fowler staff celebrated with themed Take and Make crafts, drop-in activities, and craft programs. Highlights included galaxy shirts, alien headbands, apron painting, and dinosaur eggs. A growing number of weekly volunteers plus summer teen volunteers provided key assistance.
- Sustainability efforts and education continue, with staff and patrons harvesting from the vegetable and herb gardens and enjoying the pollinator garden. After attending the "Magical Monarchs" program at the Main Library, Fowler staff acquired monarch eggs from presenter Elke Jahns-Harms. Patrons have enjoyed watching the caterpillars hatch and grow.
- Fowler staff are now overseeing the Direct to You program, coordinating volunteers to deliver items to patrons who cannot make it to the Library. Once the set-up and procedures are in place, staff plan to increase publicity and outreach efforts to in turn expand the program.



Innovation & Communications



The Innovation & Communications Team has been hard at work preparing for a busy fall, including:

- organizing [the Workshop's Fall Calendar](#), including more than 50 individual events beginning in mid-September,
- updating the look and feel of the Library's website, with input from staff and patrons,
- designing the Library's limited edition 150th Anniversary tee shirt series, available at-cost via [our online store](#),
- constructing photo booth props and illustrating custom coloring pages for the [October 1 Anniversary Parade and Party](#), and
- beginning advertising for the annual [Concord Festival of Authors](#), October 20-30.

Technical Services

- Tech Services staffers are working on the reclassification of the Library adult biography collection. Patrons will be able to find all the adult biography books in the 3rd floor stacks when the project is completed.
- In July and August, Tech Services ordered, received, cataloged, entered and processed a total of 1,182 new books and non-print materials.
- Recently a Tech Service representative offered an eBook class to seniors at the Town's Council on Aging.

Special Collections

- Staff assisted artist Ivan Orlinsky with installing his September exhibit in the Library Commons.
- Staff lead a Gallery Talk on the special exhibition “A Perpetual Invitation: 150 Years of Art at the Concord Free Public Library” at the Concord Museum.
- Special Collections received and installed new exhibit cases in the Connector and the newly renovated Gallery.
- Staff completed final preparations for the exhibition, “Connecting the Community: 150 Years of the Concord Free Public Library,” which will open on October 1.



Administration and Staffing

- Library staff celebrated long time contract employee Judy Campbell in her retirement after working at the Library for 10 years in the Administrative Office.
- The Library welcomed Teen Librarian Erick Gordy in August. Erick most recently worked at the Hampton Bays Library as the Young Adult Librarian leading major initiatives to support youth mental health, anti-bullying and active bystander training. Erick’s other expertise ranges from costume crafting to social ecology to unique trivia and tabletop gaming. Please come visit Erick in the Teen Lounge.
- Staff also welcomed Mark Gerstel as the Library’s new part-time Office Assistant. Mark worked at Harvard University for 20 years in administration, human resources, and financial management. Since retiring from Harvard he has worked part-time at the Town of Belmont in a similar administrative role. We are excited to have him join the Library’s Administration team.
- The Library Director successfully submitted the required annual reporting including the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) and Financial Report. These extensive reports summarize all of the annual activities at the Library including everything from staff salaries to circulation statistics to collection holdings. They also allow the Library to qualify for state certification which enables the library to borrow and lend with other libraries, and to receive State Aid funding.
- The 150th Committee of staff continued to meet and plan the 150th Anniversary Events to take place from September 30th - October 2nd. Events include an after hours swing concert, the world premiere of a film about Ralph Waldo Emerson, a parade and party on the Library Lawn, and a lecture on 150 years of cinematic history. Event details are on the Library’s website at cfpl150.org.