

The Janet Gates Peckham Memorial Scholarship*	Ismael Cisse
The Albert L. & June B. Powers Scholarship*	Katherine Williams
The David Prifti Memorial Scholarship*	Jurgens Michel, Jr.
The Katrina J. Przyjemski Memorial Scholarship*	Abigail Yarmartino
The Marguerite Purcell Memorial Scholarship*	Catherine Goode
The Nick Ressler Memorial Scholarship*	Deedy Chang
The Rivercrest – Deaconess – Newbury Court Scholarship	Han Lee
The Maura Roberts Memorial Scholarship*	Anna Christiansen
The Al Robichaud Scholarship*	Jurgens Michel, Jr.
The Rotary Club of Concord Scholarship	Alexandra Goulet
The Rotary Club of Concord Interact Scholarship	Thomas Copland
The Rotary Club of Concord William L. Eaton Memorial Scholarship	Abigail Yamartino
The Rotary Club of Concord Richard L. Hale Scholarship	Katherine Williams
The Rotary Club of Concord Thomas R. Huckins Memorial Scholarship	Alyssa Cucinotta
The James E. Shepherd Memorial Scholarship*	Morgan Nicholas
The Farnham W. Smith Memorial Scholarship*	Gabrielle Wilson
	Jovan Grant

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION / COUNCIL ON AGING



Seated Left to right: Carole Cushing and Pam Hanson
 Standing Left to right: Carol Ann Hannan, Michael Rudd, Ann Schummers, Margaret Hoag
 Missing: Sharyn Lenhart, Milton Cohen, Arthur Alcaez and Patty Keane

- Carole Cushing
- Pam Hanson
- Carol Ann Hannan
- Michael Rudd
- Ann Schummers
- Margaret Hoag
- Sharyn Lenhart
- Milton Cohen
- Arthur Alcaez
- Patty Keane

The mission of the Senior Services Division and the Council on Aging is to promote quality of life for Concord's seniors (age 60 and older) by helping them to maintain their dignity, self-esteem, personal independence and their roles as full participants in the life of the community. The COA strives to fulfill this mission by providing opportunities for seniors to enhance their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being.

According to the January 2017 Town Census, there are 4816 Concord residents over the age of 60 and this now represents over 30% of the total population of Concord and has been growing steadily for the last several years. The percentage is up from 22.5% in 2006. The 2010 Federal census showed that the state

average was roughly 16%, so Concord is significantly higher.

The following is a sampling of service statistics for FY 2016: 1947 seniors were active at the COA this past year. 63% were female and 37% were male. 177 new seniors began participating for the first time at the COA. 198 seniors used the van service and received 8005 rides. 499 seniors used Outreach/Social Services, 188 seniors participated in a fitness class and 3311 meals were served at the COA to 244 seniors.

Outreach and Social Services

Our professional staff provides advice, assessment, consultation, and referrals to seniors and their support network (family, friends and neighbors) while adhering to strict standards of confidentiality. Their extensive and specialized knowledge of resources helps to assist seniors to live independently as long as possible. Strong working relationships with various town departments, hospitals, home health care agencies, aging service access points, housing authorities, and businesses provide the best comprehensive service. This past year we reached out to leaders in the religious community and invited them to come to tour our facility and learn about our services.

Wellness and Fitness

The COA offers a wide diversity of program and fitness opportunities (Aerobics, Tai Chi, Yoga, and Strength and Flexibility) that contribute to the overall health of Concord seniors. We offer regular health clinics and screenings as well as a variety of speakers on an assortment of health topics. We continue to offer the free loan of durable medical equipment and 229 seniors borrowed 615 pieces of equipment this past year. This past year we were pleased to be able to increase the nurse's hours to 20 per week and are now able to offer much needed additional medical support and home visits to senior residents. We also have started an off-site blood pressure clinic at the Concord Housing Authority senior housing site.

Social, Recreational and Educational Opportunities

Because the opportunity to interact with peers, stay intellectually active, and feel valued and needed by the community is key to emotional and physical health,

we offer day trips, speaker's series, movies, parties, computer tutoring, discussion groups, craft workshops, book groups, cooking classes, games, music classes, and guided walks just to name a few. We made an extra effort this year to film more of our presentations for CCTV so that our homebound residents can benefit from the information. This past year, we were pleased to be able to add an intergenerational gardening program with the students of Carousel Preschool. We produce a 12 page monthly newsletter that is filled with many choices of activities to engage in and explains the services that we offer. Seniors that opt to receive the newsletter may do so by e-mail or postal mail delivery. As an Outreach effort, in October of this year we mailed the newsletter to each Concord home with a resident over 60 years of age, resulting in many new seniors making inquiries about our services.

Of Special Note

This past year we hosted a reunion for the Shaker Tambourine Group that used to play regularly at the COA and once performed at the Jay Leno show, we hosted District Attorney Marion Ryan for a discussion on the Opioid epidemic and also learned about the Linus project of making blankets for hospital patients. We were pleased to host and provide a tour for a representative from Concord's sister city of Nanae, Japan. We participated in a "Meeting of the Minds" of all organizations that provide social services and financial support in Concord and we have been active in a new Hoarding Task Force in the Town.

Transportation

Our vans provide weekday local transportation for seniors who no longer drive or who have a temporary limitation. We offer transportation daily Monday through Friday and are now offering two vans three days a week in order to meet increasing demand. In addition to providing transportation around town to medical appointments, banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, hospitals, etc we continue to provide transportation to the Annual Town meeting and to vote on Election Day. In October of this year we acquired a second wheel chair lift equipped van using a combination of tax dollars and donations to the COA gift account. This has made it possible to transport more than one wheel-chair bound senior at a time and provided a necessary 3rd van in case of breakdown or repairs and given us the ability to use two vans in Town and still have one available for a trip.

Lockboxes and File of Life

The COA offers the installation of a lock box on the residence of any senior who requests it. This box, installed by a COA volunteer allows the resident to place a key to their home inside in case of emergencies. Only the Fire/Ambulance Service and the COA have master keys. In the case of any emergency, the locked home can be entered without breaking a door or window. The COA also continues to encourage the use of "File of Life", which is a red plastic folder for the refrigerator and the wallet with important medical information in case of emergency. The COA provides these free of charge to all Concord seniors.

Additional Support Services

The COA offers these additional services thanks to cooperative arrangements with other agencies businesses and churches: "Ask the Lawyer" program which provides seniors with a free 30 minute consultation with an attorney, SHINE (Serving the Health and Information Needs of Everyone) counselors to help seniors with issues related to their health insurance, "Ask a Pharmacist", eye glass adjustment, AARP tax return assistance program, fall clean up days and the delivery of buckets of sand for winter.

Social Media

The COA has had their own Facebook page for over a year now and this is providing an opportunity for seniors to follow the activities of the COA and also to read important and relevant tips on successful aging.

Volunteers

Volunteers greatly enhance and support the work of the staff and thanks to their efforts and talents; we are able to offer a rich mixture of programming. The COA made a concerted effort this past year to recruit volunteers as back up drivers, friendly visitors, teachers of workshops and lecturer's on interesting topics. We were pleased that a special mailing to nurses living in town generated several new nurses for our blood pressure and diabetes clinics.

Senior Worker Positions

The COA offered two seniors positions of employment through the Town's Senior Worker Program.

Financial Support

In addition to receiving funding from the Town's General Fund, the COA is grateful to the following funding sources for their commitment to Concord seniors and the financial support of our work:

Concord-Carlisle Community Chest: Grant allocations provide partial funding for the following positions: Volunteer Coordinator, Social Service Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator.

Executive Office of Elder Affairs: The Formula Grant, based on the number of seniors in our community, provides full or partial funding for the following positions: Wellness Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, and Activity Coordinators.

Harvey Wheeler Treasure Chest Gift Shop: Thanks to the many residents who donate quality goods for resale, the patrons who shop there and the many dedicated volunteers, proceeds are used to support many COA programs.

COA Gift Account

Many people chose to make a donation to the COA gift account and this helped to make possible the purchase of a new van this past year. Most offerings at the COA are free of charge, but with the assistance of the gift account we are able to provide scholarships or partial assistance for the cost of an event or trip to folks who could not otherwise afford to attend something they were interested in.

COA Board

The COA Board, which acts in an advisory capacity to the Director, consists of nine full members appointed for three year terms and two associate members appointed for one year terms by the Town Manager. This past year the Board sponsored an effort to start a new group in town entitled, Concord After 60 which seeks to provide social opportunities and "help in a pinch". Additionally, the Board provided formal feedback to the Long Range Planning Committee about important needs and concerns that senior residents have.

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Jean Goldsberry, Chair
Meryl Rich, Clerk
Marybeth Barker
Jennifer Brooke
Linda Corbett
Tom McKean, Select Board Liaison
Nora McShane
Lloyd Price

Support for 51 Walden Renovations

The Commission on Disabilities reviewed the proposed renovations to 51 Walden, and agreed that they would make the building much more accessible. There would only be one area not accessible. We wrote a letter to the Architectural Access Board to support the renovations. In addition, we wrote a letter requesting that the 51 Walden be given an additional six months to complete the renovations to allow them to apply for much needed CPA funding.

Work with Trails Committee

The commission worked with the Trails Committee to review the Harry Beyer Assessed Trail. We also are reviewing additional Concord trails to provide feedback to which trails might be able to be assessed or parts of them made accessible.

Support for Concord Academy Renovations

Concord Academy renovations included reorienting one of its historical buildings (141 Main Street) to have its main entrance toward the center of campus rather than on Main Street. A member visited the building, spoke with staff about renovations already completed and those planned, and ensured that the main entrances were accessible.

In addition to the activities listed above, the committee also:

- Provided input to access at Bank of America in Concord Center
- Worked on input to the public accessibility mapping project
- Provided input to the Long Range Planning Committee
- Reviewed planned renovations to The Umbrella

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator position was established in 2005 by the Town of Concord in collaboration with The Concord Carlisle Community Chest. The purpose of the position is to assist Concord and Carlisle residents under the age of 60 in accessing information on a broad range of local, privately funded, and state funded services including financial, food and fuel assistance.

The position was originally part-time, funded entirely by a grant from The Concord Carlisle Community Chest. Due to an increased need for services, the Community Services Coordinator position was increased to full-time in 2014. The increase in hours has allowed for more face to face time with residents, as well as more involvement and collaboration with community agency programs. As the hours have increased, so has the Town of Concord's contribution to the funding for the position. The Town is committed to funding the position completely by FY22. In order to begin this process, FY18's funding is a true 50/50 split between the Town's General Fund and the Community Chest Grant monies.

Concord's Human Services team, including the Community Services Coordinator, moved into a new building this year located at 55 Church Street in West Concord. The new space affords greater privacy for Concord residents wishing to meet privately with the Community Services Coordinator. The new building is located just a short walk from the West Concord train depot which is helpful for those who use public transportation, and there is ample parking for those who drive.

The Community Services Coordinator continues to aid individuals and families in accessing needed services on a variety of fronts. Referrals made to Concord and Carlisle residents over the course of the year continue to increase steadily. In 2017, referrals were made to food assistance programs (both state and local), job assistance agencies, mental health services, fuel assistance programs (both state and local), lower-income legal services, disability advocacy, low cost health care options, holiday assistance, homelessness assistance resources and temporary/emergency housing, financial

assistance, after-school and summer camp scholarships, and parenting support services.

The Community Services Coordinator works collaboratively with the Concord and Carlisle Public Schools, Concord Housing Authority, the Domestic Violence Services Network, Minuteman Arc, Concord and Carlisle Councils on Aging, Concord Carlisle Community Chest, Concord Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator, Concord Veteran's Agent, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee, The Salvation Army, Concord's First Parish Church, the Concord Police and Fire Departments, Concord District Court, the Concord Masons, Concord Municipal Light Plant, Concord Recreation, Open Table, Concord Adult Community Education, The Concord Library, Concord Planning and Development Department, Concord Department of Public Health, The Regional Housing Services Office, South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC), Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), and Mass Health.

The Community Services Coordinator continues to be a point of contact in conjunction with the Council on Aging, and Concord's Police and Fire Departments, for the Concord Cares Emergency Fuel Assistance Program. Concord Cares provides 75 gallons of home heating oil to any Concord resident who is in emergency need. Also, the Community Services Coordinator is a referral source for Beacon Santa, Concord's Food for Families Program, Concord's Silent Fund, The Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund, Youth Services Holiday Gift Drive, Concord's Back-to-School Backpack Program, SMOC's Fuel Assistance Program, and DTA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Community Services Coordinator also collaborates with community agencies that provide assistance to Concord and Carlisle families over the holidays. During the 2017 holiday season the Community Services Coordinator nominated 55 families for assistance from the Silent Fund, up slightly from the year before. In addition, several thousands of dollars in toys, gifts, and gift cards, donated by Town of Concord employees and residents through the Concord Carlisle Community Chest and Youth Services Holiday Gift Drive, were distributed to over 70 Concord and Carlisle families, also an increase from last year.

Working in collaboration with the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Corinthian Masonic Lodge provided \$2,500 worth of gift cards during the Back-to-School-Backpack Program, as well as \$5,200 in gift cards during the holidays. In addition, the Masonic Lodge Angel Fund is available throughout the year to assist struggling low-income residents who are working with the Community Services Coordinator. In conjunction with the Concord Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator, the Community Services Coordinator once again printed and distributed a revised Concord Community Social Services Resource Guide. The Guide is available in hard copy in various locations throughout the town, and online at http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_WebDocs/Resource%20Guide%20Oct_14.pdf.

Residents are welcome to speak to the Community Services Coordinator by phone, by appointment at the Community Services Office located at 55 Church Street, or in their home. For additional information or to schedule a confidential appointment, please contact the Community Services Coordinator at 978-318-3034 or bwilbur@concordma.gov or www.concordma.gov/community.

YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Coordinator position for Concord and Carlisle was launched in 2011 with funding from the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest (CCCC). It is supported by the Youth Coordinator Advisory Board (YAB). CC Youth Services (CCYS) mission is to identify and broadly communicate to Concord and Carlisle families all of the resources and programs currently in place that support the social, emotional, and developmental needs of our youth. With particular focus on the middle and high school population, the CCYS coordinator serves as a clearinghouse of information and a skilled networker, a facilitator of new and existing initiatives, and a high profile public advocate for youth in our communities.

Working from a strategic plan approved by the Youth Advisory Board, activities for 2017 revolved around four priorities:

- 1) mental health awareness and prevention;
- 2) stress reduction;
- 3) substance abuse prevention;
- 4) online safety. The YSC served as participant, facilitator, or direct co-sponsor of the following community programs and events (not a complete list), in partnership with agencies and organizations listed:

- Active member of CCHS Challenge Success committee led by Assistant Principal Leslie Knight. Based out of Stanford University, Challenge Success targets ways to address the current pressures students face and offers proven strategies for making a change, drawing from the research as well as best practices from other school districts that have implemented their program.
- Partnered with Concord Health Director to secure CHNA15 Substance Use Assessment grant. Funding allowed for hiring a consultant to research and analyze available public health and public safety data on substance use of all types in Concord and Carlisle. Final report will be available 2018.
- Served on school district Crisis Intervention Team to respond to multiple youth tragedies resulting in loss of life.
- Partnered with Board of Health and Center for Parents and Teachers to develop outreach materials and parent education opportunities regarding youth vaping, substance use, and mental health.
- Revised and distributed 2017 Concord Social Services Resource Guide in conjunction with Community Services Coordinator and Town of Concord summer intern.
- Organized annual CCHS "Class Act Awards" to recognize and celebrate student service to school and community. Done in partnership with CCHS, CC Community Chest, Rotary Club of Concord, Youth in Philanthropy and 2Volunteer.
- Developed and implemented outreach campaigns including Back to School backpack drive and Holiday Youth Gift Drive in conjunction with Community Services and Concord-Carlisle Community Chest.
- In addition to these events, the YSC maintains a Facebook and Twitter page; distributes a quarterly e-newsletter with Community Services; maintains a full listing of resources under Youth Services on the Town of Concord's website; and frequently contrib-

utes to the Concord Journal with articles highlighting achievements of our youth.

HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

Susan Eckel
Paul LoVecchio
Judy Terry
Sally Clutter
Richard Gauthier

In 2017, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee (HCTC) continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 212 years ago by Concordian Hugh Cargill. The Trust's purpose is to provide short-term emergency assistance to residents of the town in times of financial need. The Committee acts on behalf of the Select Board in receiving and reviewing requests for assistance and in distributing funds in accordance with the provisions of the Trust. Concord residents request aid by leaving a phone message at the Town House: 978-318-3100, ext. 2030. Calls are returned promptly. The Committee can also be contacted through email at hctc@concordma.gov. All requests are kept confidential.

In 2017 the HCTC was responsible for distributing financial support from the following funds: the Hugh Cargill Trust (HCT) and HCT Donors, the Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP), Concord Cares, Tax Relief Committee Fund and the Silent Fund. The HCTC met monthly in 2017. A total of \$188,020 was received in 2017 for these funds and a total of \$113,224 was distributed from them in 2017. These generous contributions were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The breakdown for each fund follows below:

The Hugh Cargill Trust Fund transferred \$3,864 and private donations yielded \$72,211 for distribution by the HCTC in 2017. The Committee approved 78 grants totaling \$22,374 from this fund. Typically grants were made for the payment of rent, medical expenses, water, telephone and car insurance.

The Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP): 36 grants totaling \$10,150 were made from the funds donated by the Concord Municipal Light Plant in 2016.

Concord Cares: The HCTC also administers funds dispersed by Concord Cares for citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. The total funds dispersed in 2017 were \$4,214 to 22 Concord citizens. Requests are granted by the Committee plus other Concord services such as the Community Services Coordinator, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the Council on Aging.

Tax Relief Committee Fund: The HCTC has been designated by the Select Board to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Select Board's annual appeal. Donations to this fund totaled \$96,944 in 2017. In 2017 forty eight (48) Concord residents received a reduction in their Real Estate Tax bill each quarter. The total tax relief given in 2017 was \$61,100.

Silent Fund: This year the Select Board has designated the HCTC to also administer the Silent Fund. This fund supports summer camp tuition for worthy Concord children and also small gifts during the winter holiday season. \$15,386 was distributed by the Silent Fund in 2017.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through local communications such as the Concord Journal and the Adult & Continuing Education publications and contacts with the Silent Fund, the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, Open Table, local clergy, and other groups.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2018 could be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations to continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to: The Hugh Cargill Trust at the Town House, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.

TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

Stanly Black, Chair
Helena Long
Eric Van Loon

The Concord Select Board established the Tax Relief Committee in 2011 to more appropriately carry out a program previously initiated and handled by the Select Board. Thus the Tax Relief Fund succeeded the Select Board's Fund that was started in 2006. The essential task of the Committee is to implement an annual fundraising on behalf of households in Concord with demonstrable financial need for assistance in paying their property taxes. The contributors to this fund are caring citizens of Concord.

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee, with which we have shared solicitations, screens the applicants for tax relief from this fund and subsequently provides quarterly grants towards (or credits against) their property tax obligations. The tax relief grants made by the Hugh Cargill Committee have helped 40 to 50 Concord households in recent years. Most of those receiving this aid are seniors on fixed incomes or single parents wishing to stay in Concord. In 2017, grants of \$325 were made quarterly, leading to a maximum of \$1,300 per household over a year's time.

Total annual contributions to the Tax Relief Fund have averaged approximately \$60,000 over the first eleven years. The number of annual donors has averaged over 200 Concord households. As last year, this year's solicitations were sent out in September so as to honor October and November fundraising by our Community Chest.

Every three years, solicitations are planned to be town-wide. In 2015 that larger mailing nearly doubled the number of contributors and produced donations equal to more than double the cost of that mailing. In this current year, donations were sought from previous contributors and a limited number of new people. Donations for the current campaign will continue to be gratefully received through June 30, 2018.

The Tax Relief Committee met six times over the calendar year 2017. We continue to be impressed with the heartfelt contributions of so many to this purpose. We are thankful for the caring hours of support of Andrew Mara and Laurel Landry in the Town House.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) is to inspire lifelong learning and to actively promote personal enrichment by connecting community members to information, ideas, culture, unique historical resources and each other in a tradition of service, innovation and excellence.

The Library Committee is comprised of seven Concordians appointed by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Section 2 of the Town Charter. Members are appointed for staggered three-year terms and work with the Library Director to achieve the following goals:

1. Maintain the Library's financial stability and well-being.
2. Provide short term and long-range planning efforts.
3. Support policy development by boards and committees, update existing policies/procedures and improve communication.
4. Enhance patrons' experience using the Concord Free Public Library in all its capacities.
5. Explore and implement new technologies to enhance services and facilitate staff work.
6. Continue the library's leadership role in organizing and implementing active programming for all ages, drawing on in-house resources and collaborating with the community at large.
7. Support community sustainability initiatives through organization practices and educational resources.

This was a busy year for the Library Committee. As the library has continue to expand the offering of programs, the Library Committee worked with Library Director, Kerry Cronin to ensure Library policies are drafted and approved to support these exciting programs.

One of the key success of this past year was the 'Girls Who Code' program that the Library hosted. 'Girls Who Code' is a program run over a number of weeks and is aimed at driving diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education. For this program, the Library recruited volunteer instructors, marketed the program, and hosted the sessions. The

response was so positive that the Library will offer two 'Girls Who Code' sessions this coming year. The Library received a support grant to purchase laptop computers for the program and these are now owned assets of the Library available for use by patrons during library hours.

Library Director, Kerry Cronin, researched laptop lending policies in use at other libraries. Based on her work, the Library Committee drafted and approved a policy so that these laptop computers can now be borrowed for two-hour block of time for use in the Main Library by library patrons.

The Library Committee continues to review patron feedback and implement policies to ensure the Library continues to be valuable part of the community. In 2016, based on patron feedback, the Library Committee explored expanding the number of days that the library would be open in 2017. The Committee approved the expanding schedule and it was put into place for 2017. Review of circulation numbers show that the additional open days were appreciated and used by Library patrons.

The Library Committee continued in its role of supporting the Library Director, meeting with the Library staff, assisting with exhibits, lectures, and presentations and outreach to Concord schools. Some highlights of 2017 include:

- The Library Committee partnered with The League of Women Voters, Concord-Carlisle to provide educational material in the Main Library and Fowler Branch leading up to the Town Meeting. This collaboration was so well received that the Library Committee is working with the League of Women Voters, to potentially expand these programs and provide information to town residents for the 2018 Town Meeting.
- Curator of Special Collections, Lesley Perrin Wilson, who gave the Library Committee an in-depth outline of her activities including upcoming exhibitions, web activities, school programs, lectures, publications, preservation projects grant initiatives, and the oral history project. Lesley provided the Library Committee with a detailed background of the Alcott manuscripts that were discovered in a private collection and became part of the CFPL Special Collections this past year.
- As part of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Math grant, the Library purchased an Ultimaker 3D printer. The new 3D printer was a hit at the Library's Tech Fair held at Fowler Branch. The Library Committee worked with Library Director Kerry Cronin to draft, review, and approve a new user policy for the 3D printer. With the new policy, Library patrons now have access to this new and exciting technology.

- Caroline Nie, the Library's Technical Services Coordinator, updated the Library Committee on the continued technical education programs run by the Library. The library offers several classes at the library all of which are well attended. These classes run an hour long and the topics include introduction classes to Google, Facebook, Microsoft Word, along with several other topics. These classes are open to all and advertised on the library's website, newsletter and in the library. Traditionally the class size is roughly 6 people and there are also opportunities for one-on-one technology appointments with library staff. The library runs similar programs at the Council on Aging.
- Kim Tolson, Fowler Branch Librarian since the end of summer, 2016, is focused on outreach to all age groups in the Concord community with a special focus on pre-schoolers to teens. Among the many activities at Fowler Branch there was a story walk at Ride Out Playground, a birding activity for kids, an Empower technology workshop for 4th and 5th graders, and a library sponsored film event at Concord Carlisle High School.
- On two occasions the Committee met with Sherry Litwack, President of the Library Corporation Trustees, to learn about and to discuss the proposed plan to physically and functionally incorporate the property at 151 Main Street into the existing Main Library. The second meeting was a joint meeting of the Friends of the CFPL, the Trustees and the Library Committee. This was an open meeting. The Library Committee is very enthusiastic about the proposed expansion. It is being designed to meet the needs of library patrons of all ages. We look forward to supporting the effort by meeting with groups having special needs in the hopes that we can help to address those needs going forward.

Working in cooperation with the Director, the Staff, the Library Corporation and the Friends, the Library Committee does all it can to meet the needs of the Main Library and the Fowler Branch. The Library Committee invites guests to attend its monthly meet-

ings, held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Main Library. All are invited to visit the library website: www.concordlibrary.org and to sign up for the library e-newsletter.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Kerry Cronin, Library Director

The 2016 - 2017 year brought many successes for the Concord Free Public Library (CFPL). Among the year's highlights include the launch of a modern new website with responsive design at <https://www.concordlibrary.org>. Clear navigational features of the site provide easy access to the growing collection of digital media and training resources as well as facilitate use of historical documents pertaining to Concord. The 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth resulted in a record breaking 250+ attendees at the exhibition opening of "Concord, which is my Rome": Henry Thoreau and His Home Town. During the spring library staff led book discussions and related programs based on Thoreau's essay Walking. Teen attendance at the library remains high due in part to a new weekly Girls Who Code club for girls in grades 6 -12, which strives to close the gender gap in technology while teaching 21st century computing skills. In response to an interest by parents in coding opportunities for younger children CFPL launched "Tech Tuesdays" on early release days with instructors from Empow Studios offering workshops on topics from Lego robotics to 3D design skills. Other popular programs for adults have included monthly cookbook, literary, and mystery book discussions.

The Concord Free Public Library also enhanced its technology offerings through the purchase of a new 3D printer, additional self-checkout machines with an e-commerce payment option and new laptops for borrowing within the library. On a snowy April 1st CFPL hosted a Technology Fair which 100+ residents attended to learn more about wireless hotspots, telescopes, 3D printer, and STEAM resources as well as databases and downloadable and streaming media.

Partnership with the League of Women Voters of Con-

cord-Carlisle has enabled the library to support voter education by providing a display of historic materials about the League's work over time in addition to a table of information about the Town Warrant, proposed budget, and voter guidelines. Mapping the Road to Town Meeting is a current series of educational talks to further support active participation and awareness in time for the 2018 Concord Town Meeting.

We are fortunate to have an exceptional staff and a dedicated group of volunteers, who we honored at a spring volunteer appreciation event. During the past year Barbara Gugliuzza as Head of Reference, and Kim Tolson, Branch Librarian, had the opportunity to participate in the MMPA Leadership Development Series. Professional development remains a priority for all staff and thanks to support from the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library colleagues were able to attend the Massachusetts Library Association Conference, New England Library Association Conference, the American Library Association Conference, Book-Expo and other local and regional trainings. Library Assistants Irene Cunningham and Stacey Charbonneau received certificates of achievement by the MLA Paralibrarian Association based on their professional development accomplishments, and several staff members are exploring graduate programs in Library Science. All are seeking new ways to expand and improve library services to the Concord community.

Children's Services

It has been a very busy and fulfilling year for children's and teen services with increased programs and activities. From the weekly storytimes to the monthly visits by singer/musician Ed Morgan, there is always something going on that encourages families to stop and enjoy the wonders of books and reading. Participation in the 2017 "Build a Better World" summer reading program increased with more than 321 children reading 223,846 minutes over the course of the summer. This year's program included a new early literacy component called "Rubber Ducky Readers," which encouraged participation by toddlers and their parents. The program began with a giant Candy Land game on the front lawn and concluded with a celebratory ice cream social in the garden. Participants also had a chance to create beaded bracelets in the fashion of the Maasai people, learn origami with Michael LaFosse and volunteer at Concord's Gaining Ground. Families also generously contributed to the Read for

Seeds program at Gaining Ground as part of the reading program.

The departmental staff built on the success of the summer program by offering a fall series entitled, “101 Picture Books CFPL Loves” for ages birth to 5 years with special story times featuring the titles. A Small Wonders storytime for ages 18 to 24 months and a Baby Lapsit program introduce young children to the joy of library visits.

In 2016 the Concord Free Public Library received a Mind in the Making grant for \$7,500. This federally funded grant, issued through the Massachusetts Library Commissioners, enabled CFPL to develop innovative programs and spaces to encourage tinkering for children ages 0-6 where they are able to explore simple concepts in tactile ways. Grant highlights include: the addition of new board book bins with manipulative panels for toddler play, portable theme play areas including space and pirate dramatic playtimes, and creativity kits that can be borrowed by local preschools. Educator Megan Lambert also provided an engaging professional development workshop for preschool teachers and librarians entitled, Reading Picture Books with Children.

The popular Stay and Play, a self-directed activity program for the young, took place during the cold winter months. The three book groups – Book Eaters for the 3rd graders, Bookmarkers for the 4th/5th graders and the Teen book group met regularly to discuss the selected titles. The popular Read to a Dog program is in its 3rd year and encourages reading in a non-judgmental atmosphere. The introduction of STEAM Sundays with activities based on science themes was also very popular.

The children’s department coordinated several concerts both indoors and on the lawn as follows: the Mexican music of Veronica Robles and Her Mariachi Band, the Polish Polka music of Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push, and the Celtic music of Fellswater Scottish Band and Highland Dancers. In addition, a local Indian community performed A Night of Indian Dance and Music with dancers from the Nrityanjali School of Dance and the Concord Carlisle Chinese Club offered a very colorful Night of Chinese Dance and Music. Highlighting different cultures through music creates an atmosphere that celebrates inclusion.



Dancing to the Mexican music of Veronica Robles and Her Mariachi Band

Community outreach continues to be a departmental priority. The Concord Recreation department regularly brings children to library events. The department has worked closely with Elizabeth Stockwood, the Concord Middle School librarian, to coordinate activities that correspond to school assignments. Students who waited until the last minute to complete summer reading assignments attended a Procrastinators’ Party and CFPL displayed titles on the CMS reading list for the March Madness Book Tournament allowing students to begin to vote for their favorite book titles. Visits from the Concord Carousel take place on a monthly basis. The children’s librarians are expanding their collection of Spanish language books based on curriculum changes in the public schools.

The Main Library’s teen area was recently reimagined to better reflect the interests of that age group. Among the changes included new furniture and a light messaging board. The monthly TAB (Teen Advisory Board) meetings have become a stalwart program during which teens discuss books and enjoy snacks and other fun activities. The teens were treated to impromptu events in 2017 such as the May the 4th Be with You Star Wars afternoon. Additional popular programs included a Harry Potter Party as well as an Oscar Night during which teens were given the red carpet treatment.

In honor of Henry David Thoreau’s bicentennial, library staff members planned a series of programs under the umbrella of Concord Reads Walking by Thoreau. We took a walk in Gowing’s Swamp with natural-

ist Cherrie Corey, heard a talk by ornithologist Peter Alden on Thoreau’s animals, and listened to author D. B. Johnson’s talk on his “Henry” books. The Children’s Room staff planned a very special collaborative program with the Massachusetts Center for the Book, the Concord Museum and the Fitchburg Public Library that highlighted a walk taken by Thoreau to Fitchburg. Families took the train from Concord to Fitchburg, walked to a local park to enjoy snacks and a StoryWalk and returned to the Concord Library with the Concord and Fitchburg families via train for additional activities. It was a rewarding experience to work with the many entities to create an event that the families will remember for a long time.

The seventh annual Leslie Riedel Memorial Lecture was given by noted author Katherine Paterson, who spoke about her lengthy career as an author of children’s and young adult literature. Established by the family and friends of Leslie Riedel, this annual lecture is enjoyed and looked forward to by many.

The Children’s Department was pleased to welcome Library Assistants Emma Patterson Ware and Fiona Stevenson and Library Pages Emily Aldous and Katie Murphy.

Circulation

The Circulation Department is a hub of library activity. As a major service point we deliver materials into the hands of our patrons and we make it our goal to provide a personal, quality experience. In 2017 several services were added to meet the needs of our patrons. With the addition of circulating laptops and device charging units, Circulation offers state of the art technology options. Our self-checkout systems were upgraded to include a new 3M tabletop model and a credit card reader that provides a quick, easy and secure payment option. Newly designed library cards and updated brochures display the library’s new logo and color palette.

The nine members of the Circulation Department handle thousands of items each day. Over the course of 2017 patrons requested 41,690 items which library staff members processed and placed on the hold shelf for pick-up. The five Library Pages make sure that every returned item is re-shelved in its proper place. Museum passes, offering free or reduced admission to Massachusetts destinations, provided great enter-

tainment and education for patrons who made more than 2,750 reservations. We are grateful to the Friends of the Library for their generous support of this program and the addition this year of passes to the House of the Seven Gables in Salem and The Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton. The Friends also provided newly designed tote bags for circulation.

The Independent Publishers Association of New England invited three of our circulation staff to be judges for their 2017 book awards. Staff also participated in several professional development opportunities including Libraries and Compassion Fatigue, Dealing with Challenging Patrons, Providing Excellent Customer Service, Libby (downloadable service), Technology/ RFID Fair, Supervisory training, using the CFPL new website, MS Office and Ethics training. Circulation staff members also created displays to highlight different areas of the collection. Displays included holiday DVDs, Ground Hog Day, Valentine’s Day, Oscar winners, summer blockbusters, movies made around the Boston area and Star Wars.

The Circulation Department is committed to providing access to library resources through several outreach programs. Individually planned programs meet the needs of each patron or institution and include: the Concord Public and Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools, Concord Academy, Nashoba Brooks School, Fenn School and the Walden Street School, MCI Concord, Prison Outreach, FMC Devens, New England Deaconess, Concord Park and Direct to You home delivery service for homebound Concord residents. In March 2017 we had a very successful Food for Fines program to benefit Concord’s Open Table Food Pantry. The department waived \$357.70 and delivered many boxes of food donations.

In 2017 the Circulation Department welcomed Circulation Assistant Patricia Bates and Library Pages Doug Detweiler and Isabella Cupp. We said goodbye to Yvonne Medina, Greg Carter and Sally Duscha.

Fowler Branch

The Fowler Branch Library continues to be an important community resource. Patrons frequently praise the welcoming, comfortable space and the friendly, approachable staff. In addition to providing reader’s advisory, reference help, technology assistance, and fulfilling requests, the Fowler Branch was very active in 2017 with programming for all ages.

In January, we introduced a new Tech Tuesday series for kids in grades three through six. This popular program has continued regularly throughout the year and has been a great addition, providing fun technology instruction to kids. Successful teen programs included an All-Star Party, where middle school aged teens stopped by to walk the red carpet, play movie trivia, enjoy a popcorn buffet, and watch a movie.

Fowler also hosted a number of successful adult programs. The Friends of the Library ran their annual Friday Flicks at Fowler during January, February, and March. The Concord Seed Lending Library opened in March and the Branch hosted a number of related programs, including a talk on Growing and Sowing in our Changing Climate by Ben Elliott and Mark Congdon of Saltbox Kitchen and Farm. In July, Kyle Moody, an Assistant Professor at Fitchburg State, gave an engaging presentation on Fake News and Media Literacy. To celebrate the bicentennial of Henry David Thoreau, the yearly Concord Reads selection was his essay, "Walking." Fowler hosted a number of related programs, including a StoryWalk at Rideout Playground and an art exhibit curated by local artist Jenn Houle, entitled "Wildness & Wonder."

Summer was a busy time at Fowler with a large increase of kids visiting to participate in the Summer Reading program. A total of 97 kids signed up with Fowler as their home library. Summer programs included Mindful Baby Yoga, Backyard Astronomy, Family Movies and Origami Birds.

Fowler also continued to host successful ongoing programs such as Cookbook Club, Book-a-Mystery discussions, Toddler Time, and sing-a-longs with Ed Morgan.

Fowler saw some staff changes this year with the departures of Alison DeMers and Yvonne Medina. Later in the year we welcomed Reni Cunningham as a Library Assistant at both locations and Darshana Merchant was promoted to the full-time Branch Library Assistant. We are looking forward to welcoming Emma Patterson-Ware as a Library Assistant in the New Year.

Reference

The Reference Department continues to deliver valued services for patrons of all ages, offering research as-

sistance and a vital inter-library loan service, assisting with technology-related questions, and helping patrons to download digital media to their devices through Overdrive, Hoopla, RBDigital and the Commonwealth eBook Collections. The reference staff is also responsible for booking meeting rooms, which are heavily used by non-profit groups, tutors and study groups. The scanner and self-service fax machine remain very popular.

The Reference Department staff answered 3,188 in-person reference questions, 984 phone reference questions, and 25 email reference questions. Reference staff helped 789 patrons with computer questions, while the library's meeting rooms were reserved 1,134 times.

The department provided an array of excellent programs in 2017. The Cookbook Club continues to be a very popular monthly event, attracting an average of 30 participants each month. The Literary Book Discussion Group also continues to draw an enthusiastic crowd. In April, the group discussed the essay Walking, by Henry David Thoreau, as part of the Concord Reads program in celebration of the bicentennial of Thoreau's birth. At the May meeting, the group partnered with The Military Family Support Group of Concord to read and discuss two military-themed titles. The library also hosted several well-attended author talks during 2017. Notable talks included The Other Alcott, by Elise Hooper and The Art of Resistance: Painting by Candlelight in Mao's China, by Shelley Drake Hawks. Other well-received programs included lectures about Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy, by Randall Warniers, a financial empowerment workshop, by Julie Morgenlender, and a talk and slideshow by John Hanson Mitchell about the journals kept by his father during China's Warlord period.

The Reference Department creates monthly displays on current and relevant topics that support community interests. Popular book display topics in 2017 included: Haiti, Muslim Journeys, D-Day, Lyme Disease Awareness, 21st Century Nobel Prize winners in the Field of Literature, and Henry David Thoreau.

Classes were offered on utilizing the library's resources and databases in the spring and the fall, including group and individual instruction on using Consumer Reports online, learning languages through Mango

Languages, accessing training resources through Lyn-da.com, and searching the genealogy databases Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.

Special Collections

Henry David Thoreau's two hundredth birthday was a major focus of attention for the staff of the William Munroe Special Collections throughout 2017. Serious work on the Thoreau bicentennial exhibition "Concord, which is my Rome': Henry Thoreau and His Home Town" started in 2016 and was in full swing by the beginning of 2017. Curator Leslie Perrin Wilson assembled one hundred and fifty items from the library's collections to tell the story of Thoreau's complicated relationship with Concord, and prepared a catalog to accompany the gallery exhibition. Project Archivist and Technical Assistant Janaya Kizzie did all of the digital work required for the exhibition and catalog and designed and laid out the catalog in collaboration with Wilson. Staff Assistant Conni Manoli-Skocay prepared publicity for the show, which drew a steady stream of appreciative visitors from all over between July 7 and October 30.

Rich programming was offered in conjunction with the Thoreau exhibition. Thoreau scholar and biographer Laura Dassow Walls delivered the keynote lecture before a record crowd at the formal opening on July 14. Lectures in September and October by Elizabeth Hall Witherell, Robert Thorson, Robert A. Gross, and Robert N. Hudspeth were also well attended, as were four public gallery tours. On October 28, Wilson was one of four Thoreau bicentennial panelists at Thoreau Farm. On December 5, she led a discussion together with David Wood at the Concord Museum on Thoreau as a reader. She also led private gallery tours for the Town of Concord's Senior Management Team, for Newbury Court residents and for students from the Montrose School. In September, she explored the exhibition with four separate groups totaling one hundred members of the Surveyors Historical Society visiting Concord as part of the SHS conference "Surveyors Rendezvous 2017," which concentrated on Thoreau. The four groups both toured the gallery with Wilson and examined Thoreau surveys up close in Special Collections under the supervision of Manoli-Skocay.

The department also devoted significant attention to Emerson this year. Early in 2017, Picturing Emerson: An Iconography—a treatment of all known portraits

from life (both works of art and photographs) of Ralph Waldo Emerson, co-authored by Joel Myerson and Leslie Perrin Wilson—was published by Harvard University Press. On March 24, in celebration of the publication of the iconography, the CFPL formally opened the exhibition Picturing Emerson, which consisted of a selection of Emerson portraits curated by Wilson and Myerson. The display included items from the CFPL collections, the Joel Myerson Collection at the University of South Carolina, the Houghton Library at Harvard, and the Emerson House in Concord. The opening program, which drew over two hundred attendees, featured brief remarks by Emerson descendant Margaret Emerson Bancroft and longer comments by Leslie Wilson and Joel Myerson. Emerson Umbrella artist-in-residence Meghan Murray delivered a related talk on the problems of portraiture in April, and Leslie Wilson led three public gallery tours of the exhibition.

In May, the department sponsored a program by Concord resident Pierce Browne, who delivered a slide lecture showcasing his photographs of local stone walls and barns. In June, Richard Higgins gave a presentation on Thoreau and trees, the subject of his recently-published book Thoreau and the Language of Trees. Scheduled class and group visits formed an important part of Special Collections outreach. With the support of Constance Manoli-Skocay, Leslie Wilson talked to many groups on subjects illuminated by the holdings of the department: students in the CCHS Rivers and Revolutions program; visiting German students here as part of a Walden Woods Project program; the CCACE Concord history and guides class; Concord Academy history students; and two NEH-funded seminar groups consisting of college and community college teachers (who also returned individually for research sessions). In addition, Wilson showed the department's recently acquired Louisa May Alcott manuscripts to many pre-scheduled groups at the CFPL and spoke in Boston to the Louisa May Alcott Society at the American Literature Association conference about this acquisition. In September, stepping in for Wilson, Conni Manoli-Skocay talked to a group from the Lynnfield Senior Center. Over the year, Conni Manoli-Skocay prepared and installed a number of displays for the showcases outside Special Collections and in the 129 Main Street lobby and at Fowler, drawing on a variety of collections: the Concord Dance Hostess Committee records (for an exhibit highlighting local U. S. O. activities during

WWII); the Wilbur Y. Walworth papers (nuclear testing on the Bikini Atoll); the CFPL art collection and supporting reference materials (Charles Hovey Pepper); photographic holdings (the Assabet River; Concord in winter; the Emerson House, to accompany the Emerson iconography exhibition); town meeting documents (for a League of Women Voters town meeting program); the John J. Flynn, Jr.-John F. Kennedy/Edward M. Kennedy correspondence (for the Kennedy centennial); Concord-Nanae Sister City documents (for the twentieth anniversary of the Concord-Nanae program); and veterans oral histories (for Veteran's Day). Manoli-Skocay coordinated with conservator Luisa Granitto on a display on book conservation and served as the library contact for area artists showing in the gallery at times when it was not in use by the department. She participated in the jury process by which these artists were selected, as well.

Before she left at the end of June, Project Archivist Janaya Kizzie (whose processing work was funded by the Library Corporation) completed the processing, description, and preparation of finding aids for two collections—the Ada Shepard papers and the W. Barksdale Maynard papers—and mounted the finding aids for both on concordlibrary.org. The processing and description of a number of smaller collections was accomplished by Simmons College interns.

Volunteer Carol Gannon made headway with the compilation of a Concord obituary data base to replace the card-file system used in the department to this point. Implementing this project will occupy her efforts over the coming year. Also, Conni Manoli-Skocay prepared another batch of transcribed Revolutionary-era town records to send out for scanning and addition to both Digital Commonwealth and the CFPL website.

Research use of the collections was once again vigorous. We provided access and assistance to a total of 1,821 researchers—a slight increase over last year. Finally, the future vitality of the department was ensured by the growth of holdings through gift and purchase. We are grateful to all the generous donors who gave personal papers, photographs, and printed materials this year. Some notable additions to Special Collections include Dee family papers, given by Susan Dee and Sherry Dee Mobley; Sterling Delano papers relating to Brook Farm and nineteenth-century utopianism, given by Maris Delano; Wheeler family papers

relating to farming at Nine Acre Corner, donated by Barbara Wheeler LaJeunesse; Locke and Davis family papers, given by Helen R. Cook and Abigail Kazanowski, and Country Store of Concord materials, from Helen R. Cook; Edward Jarvis Bartlett and related family papers, from Marjorie Brett; a Louisa May Alcott letter (June 24, 1886, to Laura Whiting Hosmer), from Dorothy and Bruce Eros; and Barrett family papers (including James Atwater Barrett Civil War correspondence), donated by Meliscent Gill, Leslie James Peterson, Linda Peterson, and Patty Peterson.

Technical Services/Technology

Technical Services/Technology Department is responsible for library material/resource management and technology enhancements. The scope of this work includes: planning, implementing, maintaining and supporting library technology, updating library web pages, contributing to and publishing library eNewsletters, training staff and teaching the public computer and eBook classes and individual sessions. Some staff members are also book selectors and participate in reference/public services. Colleagues participate in the Minuteman Library Network's various Interest Groups and/or Working Groups and attend meetings and contribute their ideas to the groups. Book conservation is another important responsibility of the Department. In addition to managing the repair of the general collections, our Book Conservator repairs and restores valuable materials owned by the Library's Special Collections.

In 2017, staff members ordered, received, cataloged, processed and added to the library collections and Minuteman Library catalog a total of 11,000+ books, music and spoken CDs, DVDs, Blu-rays and eBooks/audiobooks. This included uploading new books and spoken CDs to the library's New Arrivals webpage for online display just prior to them becoming available for circulation.

The Library's digital media collection also continues to grow. At present, the Library provides Concord residents access to 600,000+ downloadable and streaming titles in OverDrive, Hoopla, Commonwealth eBook Collections (new to the Library), RB Digital and RB Digital Magazines free of charge. With a valid library card, Concord residents can enjoy eBooks, audiobooks, movies, TV series, music albums, and eMagazines from the comfort of their home 24/7 or when they travel. In addition, the Library renewed its subscription to Lynda.com, an online learning website, which contains over 4,000 video-based

courses on all topics from technology skills to photography to "soft skills," available to Concord residents.

Staff members continued to offer computer classes and Drop-In Tech Help sessions regularly at the Main Library. In the past year these classes included: Your New iPad, Introduction to Your Android Device, Intro to MS Publisher 2016, Using Library Digital Media; Apps on Your Mobile Device, Keep in Touch with Skype, Facebook 101, Mobile Photography (offered by tech consultant Jennifer Koerber), Buy and Sell on Craigslist, Twitter 101, Intro to Word 2016, Gmail and Beyond the Basics, among others. Additional classes were offered off-site at the Council on Aging.

In late March the Library launched a redesigned new website created by Clearpeak. The new site is responsive and scalable to smart phones and tablets. It is run on a content management platform and maintained and updated by the staff members in the Technical Services/Technology Department with the input/request from each library department and the Teen Advisory Board. The new website continues to receive thousands of pageviews per month.

The Library soft launched its 3D print service to the public during the past year, and has filled received requests from Concord residents to print their 3D designs for small objects. The use of 3D Printer policy and procedures can be found on the library website.

In December consultant Jennifer Koerber facilitated community focus groups to help identify current and future technology needs at the Concord Free Public Library. Feedback received during these sessions will be incorporated into a technology and training plan for the library.

We are appreciative of the Town IT Department for their responsiveness and support to library technology needs in the past year. Among these contributions include the installations of three new 5G wireless routers for the Fowler Branch large meeting room, the Main Library's Lower Level Meeting Room and the Trustees Room and their assistance with the PA system installation. We also want to thank our long-time volunteer Elaine Adams for her dedication and hard work to the Technical Services staff in the past year.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

Sherry F. Litwack, President
O. Mario Favorito, Vice President
Richard D. Briggs, Jr., Treasurer
Frederick H. Lovejoy, Jr., Clerk
Jeffrey W. Adams
Cristina Coletta Blau
Diana W. Clymer
Lowell S. Smith

The Concord Free Public Library Corporation is a Massachusetts charitable corporation created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1873 for the purpose of forming and maintaining a public library in Concord, which it undertakes to do in collaboration with the Town and the Library Committee.

The primary responsibility of the Trustees is to preserve, maintain (everything inside and outside the Library), protect (insurance and security), and enhance (improvements and expansion) the Library buildings and grounds – the Main Library in Concord Center and the Fowler Branch in West Concord – as well as to preserve, develop, and protect the Special Collections. In FY 2016-2017 the Corporation contributed over \$650,000 to the Library, including nearly \$125,000 to supplement the Town Budget for library books and materials. The majority of these funds come from the Annual Appeal and income from the Corporation's Endowment.

Four years ago, we reported that the Corporation purchased the property next door to the Main Library at 151 Main Street. Since making the purchase, we have been actively exploring how this additional space could enhance services and programs at the Library to meet the future needs of the community. We have solicited ideas from the Library staff, Library Committee, Friends of the Library, as well as a wide variety of Town groups and individuals, and we have identified many exciting possibilities, including improvements and enhancements in children's services, teen services, technology, energy efficiency, meeting and collaborative working spaces, program spaces, and special collections. We have a preliminary architectural plan that reflects the Library's long-range plan and are actively engaged in raising money to make these plans a

reality. While the Corporation is responsible for raising the funds for the project through private donations and grants, we will continue to work closely with Town officials as plans develop. We will share plans with the public well in advance of any Town budget approval needed for staff and utilities as specified in the Town/Library Agreement. We have shared preliminary plans with town officials, the Select Board, and the League of Women Voters and will begin to widely share with the community at large in 2018.

The William Munroe Special Collections continues to be an outstanding resource not only for the community but for researchers from around the world. One of the highlights this year was the acquisition of almost 500 pages of original manuscripts by Louisa May Alcott – the largest collection of Alcott’s working manuscripts. While it will be a valuable resource for researchers and scholars, the public is welcome to view these remarkable papers, as with all Special Collections materials. In the gallery, the exhibition “Picturing Emerson: A Selection of Lifetime Portraits of Ralph Waldo Emerson” coincided with the publication of *Picturing Emerson: An Iconography* by Joel Myerson and our own Curator of Special Collections, Leslie Perrin Wilson. To learn more about Special Collections, go to this link: <http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/scoll.html>

As Trustees of the Williams Scholarship Fund, made possible by a bequest from Charles H. S. Williams, we continue to award grants to several college students pursuing studies in the arts. This year’s recipients included Timothy Collins, Kayleen Honan, Elanna Honan, and Helen Wargelin. This past year has been another busy and productive one for the Library as the Library increasingly fulfills the role of a community center with a wide range of programs and services free and open to the public. The Library Corporation is committed to supporting the growth and development of the Library by ensuring that our beautiful historic buildings meet the community’s growing needs.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library is a nonprofit volunteer organization that works to support the Library and its vital role as a cultural and literary resource for our community.

- We fund book and media purchases, museum passes, special programs, and Library staff professional development.
- We develop and present free programs at the Library, including concerts, readings, and film series.
- We develop and present free programs at the Library for children and youth.
- We do community outreach that includes providing donated books to Open Table and Concord Prison Outreach and other organizations.

Our gifts and programs are funded through memberships, sales of donated books, and sales of *Historic Concord*, a book published by the Friends. Online sales are managed by Empire Books, and books are for sale every day on the Friends Book Sale shelves at the Main and Fowler Libraries.

The Friends’ Holiday and June book sales are our biggest sources of revenue, and they are also much-loved and well-attended community events. The Holiday Sale in December 2017 raised nearly \$12,000 and the June 2017 Book Sale on the lawn raised \$23,421.00 – both record-breaking! Hundreds of hours go in to preparing and running the sales. Thousands of books are donated by the community to make them possible. The heart and soul of this operation is a team of over a dozen enthusiastic volunteers who sort the many volumes donated to the Friends each year and prepare them for the book sales. If you have books you’d like to donate please bring them to the reference desk at the main library.

We sponsored several programs at the Concord Festival of Authors. This fall at the Breakfast with Authors at the Colonial Inn we recognized the founder and director, Rob Mitchell, for creating and stewarding this remarkable collection of authors and events for 25 years. He was recognized again at the Mystery Night event at the Library. We realize he simply cannot be recognized enough for all he has done for our community!

In 2017 we presented the annual Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History to Gordon S. Wood, the Alva O. Way University Professor and Professor of History Emeritus at Brown University. He won the Pulitzer Prize for History and the Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize for his book *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. In 2011 he was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Obama. Every year we sponsor the Sing-a-long with Ed Morgan programs, CCHS Student Study Days, and the Author Series. Our “Friday Flicks at Fowler” film series shows a variety of perspectives and ideas from around the world.

In the winter of 2017 “Music from the Library” celebrated its 20th anniversary season of presenting world class artists in the intimate acoustics in the rotunda at the Main Library. Once again, we welcomed capacity audiences to our free concerts. The season opened in February with an extraordinary concert by the Borromeo String Quartet followed by a lovely reception hosted by Rebecca Purcell and her staff of volunteers. Anastasia Seifetdinova gave an exquisite piano recital in March and the season concluded in a jazzy way in April with the Eric Hofbauer Quintet, whose performance was designated the Hans Poppel concert in honor of one of our founding Music Committee members. Special thanks to Robert Levers, who designed the wonderful 20th anniversary logo which was displayed on a banner outside the Library entrance in addition to designing the program booklet covers, and to the other members of the music committee, Marilyn Bone Kloss, Marcia Marlow, and Sally Sanford. We look forward to another great season in 2018.

The “Poetry at the Library” series hosted Josh Bell, author of two poetry collections, *Alamo Theory* and *No Planets Strike*; three-term U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky who read from his newest book of poems, *At the Foundling Hospital*; and Poet-translator Eleanor Goodman who read her own poems and her award-winning translations of contemporary Chinese poets.

To learn more or to join the Friends pick up a brochure at the Library or visit us online at the new website under the How We Work section: <http://concordlibrary.org/about/how-we-work/>

E-mail friends@concordlibrary.org
Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/concordlibraryfriend

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/ConcordLibrary>

RECREATION COMMISSION

Chair, Peter Hunter

Members: Casey Atkins

John Carlton

Paul Grasso

Peter Ward

Liasons: Scott Randall Finance Committee

Steven Ng, Selectboard



Left to right: Peter Hunter, Paul Grasso, Casey Atkins, Jack Carlton, Peter Ward (absent from photo)

The Recreation Commission is a volunteer Town Manager-appointed Committee that provides community input, advice and guidance to the Recreation Division of Human Services. In 2017, the Commission has played a critical role in supporting the department and its new (2016) Director and Assistant Director as this new management team navigates the opportunities and challenges facing a community that deserves and expects high quality recreation and fitness programs. Since the Recreation Department is practically self-funded and currently utilizes a very limited amount of funding through the town, managing the department’s fiscal health has been a priority for the Commission. The Commission is also working closely with the Concord Long Range Planning Committee (CLRPC) to develop a long-range plan that is consistent but also enhances the current 2014 Recreation Long Range Facilities plan.

Financial Status

The Recreation Division operates with minimal tax support. In FY 2017, the department expenses (including the Beede Swim & Fitness Center) of \$4,040,911 for all programs and staff, received \$177,322 from the General Fund, working out to just under 4%. Additionally the Department paid back to the General Fund \$84,555 from the Revolving and \$93,151 from the Enterprise funds for services by other town departments including; Finance, Human Resources, and Parks and Trees. According to data from the National Recreation and Park Association, the average park and recreation agency receives a tax subsidy of approximately 70-75% of their expense. The Revolving budget experienced a healthy 2017 with \$2,008,085 in revenues and reporting a gain of \$152,856 after expenses for a total of 7.6% positive rate. The Beede Enterprise Fund experienced a small financial loss of (\$9,543).

Department Awards

The Recreation Commission established the Maureen Taggart Award in 1985. Any high school student, public or private, who is a resident of Concord or Carlisle, and who has demonstrated a loving and giving spirit through voluntary service to the community is eligible. The main feature of this award is that the recipient has the privilege of designating a deserving organization to receive a financial grant in Maureen's name. The recipient's name is placed on a plaque located at the Hunt Recreation Center. Congratulations to Elizabeth Cownie and Brennan O'Neil 2017 Maureen Taggart Award winners.

Community Support

Thank you to our community sponsors and supporters, without the involvement and commitment from many members of the community the Department cannot thrive. Concord-Carlisle Community Chest, the Silent Fund, Alcott School Turkey Trot, Concord Public Schools all provide funding towards scholarship programs. Additionally, many corporate sponsors assisted in funding with sponsorship dollars that helped keep many community events low cost or free including Enterprise Bank, Sorrento's Pizza, Concord Oil, Trails End Café, the Concord Free Public Library. Lastly, a thank you goes out to Concord's schools that allow us to use space for programming, the Nashoba Brooks School, the Middlesex School, the Fenn School, and Concord Academy.

And finally, the assistance from other Town Department's and organizations that make things like Jazzfest, the Stow Street Block Party, and the Holiday Tree Lighting and Parade possible – the Department of Public Works, the Concord Municipal Light Plant, the Water Department, the Police and Fire Departments and the Facilities Department, to name a few.

Recreation Projects

Concord Recreation completed three major renovation projects; the resurfacing of the Emerson Track, the renovation of the Rideout Playground parking lot and landscaping, and the installation of the new Concord Integrated Preschool accessible playground at the Ripley School. All three of these projects work to improve assets for our community's recreational opportunities.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Director, Ryan Kane

Department Mission Statement

Concord Recreation is a leader in providing activities that enhance personal development, promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage greater community involvement. As dedicated professionals, we strive to promote lasting experiences, while creating fun, unique inclusive opportunities in excellent facilities. Concord Recreation is a self-supporting operation that strives to meet the needs of the community by delivering the highest quality customer-focused programs, events and services.

Community Events and Visibility

Throughout the course of the last year, the Concord Recreation Department has made it a goal to be more visible and present within the community. As a result, we have worked hard to spread our logo throughout town and have focused resources towards better marketing our brand and providing more services and programs for the community at large. Additionally, our Department has been asked to manage other aspects of our Town's traditions and we are proud to recap these monthly accomplishments:

January 2017

- As we continue to expand our reach, we now offer free Winter Fitness Class for one week in September and January or participants to try with no commitment.

February 2017

- Visitor Center: Concord Recreation officially took over the management of the Town's Visitor Center, located at 58 Main Street. Along with adding 7 passionate and knowledgeable staff members to our team, we have now found ourselves in the travel and tourism industry.
- Winter Wonderland Event: This annual family friendly, free event combines ice skating, a bonfire, horse drawn sleigh rides, food, music, and much more. March of 2017
- Beede Membership Restructuring: The Beede Swim and Fitness Center restructured membership fees to include punch passes, three month memberships, and inclusive access to swim and fitness facilities for all that joined.



April of 2017

- Egg Hunt: Concord Recreation hosted a very successful Egg Hunt at Memorial Field, attracting hundreds of families to partake in the fun. Over 20,000 eggs were spread out on the field giving all kids the opportunity to leave with special treats.

May of 2017

- Inclusion Introduction: Concord Recreation proudly started to offer inclusion programs for community members with disabilities. With a mission to assure that all Concord residents are able to participate in our programs, we have worked hard to develop programs that support participants with varying abilities.
- Stow Street Block Party: A free community event that features activities for all ages featuring music, food, games, and more. This event will also incorporate our Touch a Truck event.

June 2017

- Middlesex JazzFest: Concord Recreation partnered with resident Chris Wixom to coordinate the first annual Middlesex Jazz Fest. This event attracted hundreds of attendees bringing business, musicians, and residents together for a great day of music.
- Community Yard Sale: We take the hassle out of setting up your own yard sale- Concord Recreation welcomes residents to set up and sell outside of the Hunt Recreation Center during our annual community yard sale.

July of 2017

- Minuteman Classic Road Race: Concord Recreation continues to host this annual event; a 5 mile road race and 1 mile fun run on the 4th of July.

August of 2017

- The new gathering spot for our Three Rivers Day Camp, Concord Recreation pitched a beautiful 1,300 square foot tent at Emerson Park. This tent provided shade for park users and over 150 campers per week but also became a focal point for all who visited the park.
- Rideout Movie Series: Concord Recreation will continue to offer free, outdoor movies at Rideout Park on summer nights.

September 2017

- September National Yoga Month Events: Concord Recreation embraces National Yoga Month by running one month of free yoga classes in September!



Campers gather under the Concord Recreation tent this summer

October 2017

- Sleepy Hollow 5K Halloween Race: A Halloween themed fun run and 5K race on Halloween weekend, Concord Recreation welcomes over 100 runners each year to join in on the fun!
- Trunk-or-Treat at Beede: This free community event invites participants to decorate a vehicle trunk/tailgate and pass out candy as kids trick-or-treat from car to car. Trunk or treating allows kids to have all the trick or treating fun without crossing streets or worrying about traffic.

November 2017

- Free Thanksgiving Day Group Fitness Classes: We love to show our gratitude by hosting free fitness classes. This is the second year that our Group Fitness programs have ran two classes on Thanksgiving morning and they continue to be well attended.
- Carousel Preschool Veteran's Day Breakfast: Concord Recreation's Carousel Preschool Students sing at the Council on Aging for Veteran's on Veteran's Day. Parents and community members are welcome to attend.

December 2017

- Holiday Tree Lighting and Parade: Concord Recreation took over the management and facilitation of the Town's Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting. With support from many Town Departments, we had an enormous turnout and an overall very successful Sunday afternoon event.
- Carousel Preschool's Noon-Year's Eve Disco: This family disco party will have kids and parents boogying down together to the hottest tunes spun by a rockin' DJ. And when they need to catch their breath, your kids will be able to get groovy hairdos, rad tattoos, a funky family photo for their memory box, express their inner artist on our graffiti wall, enjoy the most delicious pizza and drinks in town, and more!

BEEDE SWIM & FITNESS CENTER

General Manager, Jon Straggas

The Beede Swim and Fitness Center, managed by the Recreation Division, is an affordable community facility. The Beede Center is self-supporting and does not receive tax dollars. Members and program participants provide all the funding to operate the Beede Center.

The Beede Center welcomes an average of 600 visitors per day and is committed to serving the needs and interests of everyone in the community—children, adults, senior citizens, and individual with disabilities. Membership

In 2017, the Beede Center made changes to its membership plans. The goal was to provide members with simpler, more flexible membership options. All memberships now include swim and fitness. All swim only and fitness only memberships have been converted to this new membership type. This gives members access to all the aquatic and fitness facilities at Beede. Following an industry standard, the Beede Center moved to monthly recurring billing for all memberships. The community had been asking for short term membership options. The Beede Center now offers a 3 month membership and 10 visit pass.

Last fall, the Beede Center staged a direct mail marketing campaign to Concord and four surrounding communities. Follow-up ads were run in the local papers for two weeks. The offer, a free 7 – day pass, was redeemed by 99 families. These converted into 19 new memberships. The Beede Center expanded its use of social media to advertise membership promotions. A promotional video was shot and run on Facebook.

Facility Enhancements

The Beede Center completed the second phase of its lighting project. The project included replacement of existing bollard lights which run along the front of the building with light poles and upgrading the parking lot lighting. All new fixtures are LED to both optimize energy consumption and reduce costs.

Program Offerings

The Beede Center offers a wide variety of learn-to-swim classes designed to meet a diverse range of needs and ability levels. The Center also offers a comprehensive water fitness program in deep and shallow water. Every member receives a free equipment orientation and workout plan from one of our certified trainers. The Beede Center offers affordable personal training and body composition testing. We also offer a large variety of group classes and open to the members and non-members alike. However, Beede members receive a discount on classes. Operation of group exercise programs have been transferred from the Recreation revolving account to the Beede Enterprise account.

The Beede Center hosted two Recreation Community events, the first annual Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat.

Department-Wide Financial Assistance

Concord Recreation wants to assure that all community members are able to participate in programming, regardless of their ability to pay. In total, the Department awarded \$189,376 in financial assistance to those in need. It will continue to be a priority of the Department to assure that no one is excluded for financial reasons.

As we move forward in 2018, our Department is eager to share news of even more events and specialized programs to meet our community's needs:

- St. Patrick's Day 5K and Fun Run.
- Outdoor Summer Concerts at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.
- Evening lantern tours and storytelling with the Visitor Center Staff.
- The unveiling of the Minuteman Bike Share Program with bike rental stations in Concord Center and West Concord.
- Enhanced group exercise programs for adults and youth.
- A new presence in West Concord with an office and staff located at 55 Church Street, the Town's new Human Services building.
- A reintroduction to the Concord Community through innovative and exciting expansions at the Beede Swim and Fitness Center.

Recreation Department Numbers in 2017

- 13,600 visitors at the Concord Visitor Center
- 2,432 personal training sessions at the Beede Swim and Fitness Center
- 1,700 registrations within our summer camps
- 200 Department staff, including full time, part time, temporary and limited status individuals.
- 162 kids on the Otters Swim Team out of the Beede Center
- 56 kids participated in the Concord Recreation Summer Inclusion Program
- 15 years the Afterschool Program has participated in the Book Tree program

Program Testimonials (names changed for privacy)

Camp Three Rivers Inclusion Program
"John and I wanted to thank you for all you did to help Sam have a wonderful first experience of summer camp. We couldn't be happier with what this has been like for

him. In particular we have loved the way camp allowed him to engage with what was fun and comfortable for him, and to find his way to other things when activities were too much for him. We have been so delighted to watch him get more comfortable, gain a little more confidence, and have so much fun.

Tonight at bedtime I was telling him how proud I was of him for trying something new, even though he was nervous at the beginning. Sam replied: "And I liked it!" We can tell he's proud of himself too, and that's pretty great. Thank you for everything, and we hope Sam will be able to be part of camp again next summer!"

Group Fitness

"I have been taking Concord Rec's fitness classes for several years now, and just want you to know what a terrific group of instructors you have. I was too intimidated to go to a gym or to a yoga/pilates studio when I first started out since I'd never done this kind of exercise before. Although I'm pretty active and fit for a person in late middle age, I didn't know whether I could keep up with younger folks. What I love about the Concord Rec classes is that people are welcome no matter what their ability, and the teachers do such an excellent job of helping people who have body troubles of any kind with modifications of the exercises."

Carousel Preschool

"I just have to say "thank you" for the wonderful work you are doing with our kids. I love the community connections with the library and authors visiting. And THEN, the kids got to write their own books. I am so impressed. Thank you all!"

Stow Street Block Party

"Wanted to reach out and thank you again for having us at the Stow Street Block Party! We had a great time and met a bunch of wonderful families. It seemed like a great success all around—kudos!"

Beede Center

"My family and I have been members at the Beede almost since day one, and we have made use of that membership, almost daily! I had a breast cancer diagnosis, followed by many surgeries. After every surgery my trainer helped me to navigate the path to recovery, pushing me out of my comfort zone at the same time helped me to avoid injury. The result? I am healthier now than I was before I got sick! Thank you Beede!"

2017 PICNIC IN THE PARK

Frank Okurowski – Co-Chair, Fund Raising
Marie Foley – Co-Chair, Booths
Tina Browne – Secretary
Karen Ahearn – Entertainment
Doug Ellis – Publicity
Irmi Doane – Picnic Backers
Ann Lang – Children’s Parade
Anne Edgar – Hot Air Balloon
Michael Rudd – PA System, Posters

Concord’s annual July 4 celebration, Picnic In the Park, took place under sunny skies. Many enjoyed the all day celebration that took place at Emerson Field and in the Hunt Gym on Stow Street. The REMAX hot air balloon took people on tethered rides. Children proudly paraded their decorated bikes behind a Concord police car. Children’s entertainment included a concert by Matt Heaton and the Outside Toys, balloon twisting, field games, a Tanglewood Marionette production of The Fairy Circus, the 911 House sponsored by the Concord Fire Department, activities with members of the Concord Police Department and rides on the popular Roaming Railroad. Musical entertainment included Bluegrass played by Southern Railroad and patriot music by the Concord Band. Fun for the teens included temporary henna tattoos. Many local non-profit organizations provided information about their groups and a variety of food and beverages were available for purchase.

The Picnic In the Park committee members organize and seek donations for the event, but the day’s programs would not be possible without the invaluable assistance of the Town of Concord, the Concord Public Works Highway Division, the Concord Light Department, the Concord Fire Department and the Concord Police Department. Concord resident Rob Beyer organized the field games. Members of the Concord branch of the National Charity League, a national organization of mothers and daughters provided tremendous assistance during the day. George Herbolsheimer was the Master of Ceremonies for the parade and announcements throughout the day.



Children ride in the street during the 2017 Picnic in the Park

The following corporate sponsors and private donors provided financial backing for the entertainment:

Charles and Gloria Clough – major donors
Salem 5 Bank
Middlesex Savings Bank
Dunkin’ Donuts of Concord
Barrett/Sotheby’s Real Estate
Cambridge Trust Company

Picnic In the Park Backers, private donors
The Committee encourages Concord citizens to support the annual Picnic In the Park with financial contributions and volunteer effort, on the committee or during the day of the event.

PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

John Arena, III – Chair
Robert Norton
Erin Logan
Tom Valle
Edward Murray
Trish Ng
Julissica Rona



From left to right: John Arena III, Tom Valle, Trish Ng, Robert Norton, Edward Murray, Erin Logan

The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing several ceremonies and celebrations sponsored by the Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2017 included: Honored Citizen Ceremony on March 26; Meriam’s Corner Exercise on April 8; Patriot’s Day Parade on April 17; Dawn Salute on April 19; Memorial Day Ceremonies on May 29; Veterans’ Day Flag Retirement Ceremony on November 11; and Concord’s annual Tree Lighting on Dec. 3. The committee is grateful to the many people and organizations that helped make 2017 such a successful year! These especially include Parade Marshall Navy Lt. Justin Lutz, Town and State officials, various Town departments especially the Fire, Police and Public Works Departments, Honored Citizen Jeff Adams, local Veterans, Concord Minutemen, Concord Independent Battery, Middlesex County 4H Fife & Drum Corps, participating clergy from Concord, Concord Girl and Boy/Cub Scouts, CCHS music volunteers, and the many others and organizations who participated in and attended the 2017 events. The committee is comprised of seven members who understand the importance of upholding these valued town traditions.

Honored Citizen Ceremony & Reception

Each year, since 1962, Concord honors a deserving citizen(s) who has demonstrated extraordinary town service and volunteerism by being selected as Honored Citizen.

Jeffrey Adams was named Honored Citizen for 2017. For over thirty years, Jeff has resided in Concord. He served town government on the 2001 Landfill Study Committee, two terms on the Public Works Commission, Planning Board, Estabrook Woods Access Study Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Natural Resources Commission. Jeff has served on the Alcott, Thoreau and CCHS School Building Committees and on numerous task groups including the Village Overlay Study, Landfill Study, Hugh Cargill Task Force, Wastewater Management Study, Recreation Space Study, and Open Space Planning Committee. Jeff has been a Trustee of the Concord Free Public Library, and on their Special Collections Committee (which oversees the Town archive), and also as a one-man Building Committee. Jeff participated in the Old Manse Committee and has served as a Trustee at the Fenn School, as well as a member of the Advisory Council for the Umbrella Community Arts Center and a member of their building committee. One nominator mentioned “he helped establish the Danner DeStephano Scholarship and raised over \$125,000 to make it possible for the Recreation Department to offer summer camp scholarships to deserving families in Concord.”

Jeff’s steadfast devotion to the town through his years of extensive service has earned him the rightful recognition of Honored Citizen.

Meriam’s Corner Exercise

This ceremony commemorates the assembly and actions of militia and Minuteman units that arrived at Meriam’s Corner during the British retreat from Concord on April 19th, 1775. After the Regulars’ withdrawal from the Old North Bridge, they began a retreat back to Boston. By the time the Regulars arrived at Meriam’s Corner, at half past noon, there were reported to be about 1,100 Minutemen in the area from more than a dozen towns. On that April 19th, at Meriam’s Corner, a day of relatively small but violent skirmishes blossomed into a running, 16-mile battle that became the opening salvo to the eight-year American Revolutionary war.

Patriots Day

The Patriots' Day Parade covered a route of approximately 2.5 miles from the Hunt Gym through Concord Center to the Old North Bridge and back to the Hunt Gym. Participants included several minuteman companies and military organizations; marching bands; cultural and youth groups; and local/state dignitaries and elected officials. At the Old North Bridge, a solemn ceremony remembered the various Minuteman companies and British troops of 1775 and wreaths were laid at the Minuteman statue and Grave of the Unknown British Soldiers. Ceremony observers were challenged to pause and reflect, on a personal level, the events and hardships that took place there, at about the same time of day, on April 19, 1775.

Dawn Salute

The Dawn Salute is held at the Old North Bridge every year on April 19th to commemorate the opening battle of the American Revolution in 1775. Church bells toll at 5:45AM from the First Parish to sound the alarm. "Dr. Prescott" arrives at the Bridge after riding across the countryside warning towns and villages that the Regulars were on the march and their destination was Concord. Minutemen firing salutes, volleys by the Concord Independent Battery from Buttrick's Hillside and a performance by the "Old Guard" contributed significantly to the event.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day parades and remembrance ceremonies were held in West Concord at Percy A. Rideout Field and Kenneth J. Dunn Square and in Concord Center at Monument Square. Concord's proud Role of Hon-



or was read at Monument Square. Commemorative wreaths were placed by Concord veterans at the West Concord locations as well as several monuments in the Square. The Concord Independent Battery and Concord Minutemen fired multiple times throughout the morning to commemorate the brave men and women who lost their lives in the line of service.

Veterans Day

Concord's Flag Retirement Ceremony is held each year on Veterans' Day and provides Concordians with the opportunity to retire their worn American Flags in a respectful and appropriate manner. The ceremony was established in 1965 by James Carroll, Dr. Francis McDonald, Bernard Rushe, Former Fire Department Chief Thomas Tombeno, and Clark McClevin. This group of Concord residents, and the Town at large, felt that worn, torn and/or faded flags, left in place through the fall and winter months, honored neither our nation's colors nor our departed veterans. For the past fifty two years, this ceremony has been conducted to remedy this situation by properly retiring flags by burning with assistance from the Concord Fire Department and participation from veterans, local officials, Concord Independent Battery, Concord Minutemen, and the Military Family Support Group. Each year, local Girl and Boy Scout troops assist the committee with properly folding the flags at Hunt Gym, a few days prior to the retirement ceremony. The committee is grateful to the years of participation from our Concord Scouts!

Tree Lighting

2017 marked the first year that the Public Ceremonies Committee assisted with the annual Tree Lighting and Parade. With additional assistance from the Concord Recreation Department, the committee planned a small parade from Hunt Gym to Monument Square, with the grand finale featuring Santa on top of a Concord fire truck. The turnout was incredible, and the committee looks forward to working with the Recreation Department to continue this wonderful holiday event for years to come.

CONCORD-CARLISLE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Officers for the 2017 year are:

Co-Chairs: Louisa Paushter and Rob Morrison

Treasurer: Libby Kurten

Secretary: Sarah Napier

Website: cchumanrights.org

The first event of 2017 was in January when we held our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. concert at the Fenn School. The performers were Lisa Lee and Joyful Voices of Inspiration) joining the Fenn Treble Choir, The Boston Children's Choir, and the Willard Chorus was a joyful evening of song masterfully mc'ed by CCHS graduate, Charisse Gilmer Alouidor.

On April 30, 2017, the Council again coordinated the Annual Holocaust Memorial on behalf of the Concord Board of Selectman. The one hour documentary film titled "Exile and Community: The Life of Carola Domar" was shown. Concord film maker Susan Reider explains "Although this oral history is told by an elderly woman and her grown daughter, the account is largely communicated from a young person's perspective--Carola escaped Germany as a teen and came to the United States on her own. A chapter of the piece is devoted to the sense of community and purpose she finds in Conantum, Concord." A Q & A session with the film maker and Carola's daughter, Alice, followed. Rabbi Darby Leigh and Cantor Rosalie Gerut from Congregation Kerem Shalom offered memorial prayers and music. Select Board member, Alice Kaufman, represented the Town of Concord with welcoming remarks.

Our "Climate for Freedom" breakfast was held on December 4th at Trinitarian Congregational Church. Our speaker was Concord Police Chief Joe O'Connor who spoke about recent national and local current events which impact communities, as well as the importance of standing up to hate in all forms.

Apart from these annual events, sub-committees of the Council have been busy following up local issues of human rights, and we have liaised with the Concord Police Department to help follow up with complaints of human rights abuses.

CONCORD-NANAE NETWORK JAPANESE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Susan H. Curtin, Co-chair

John Cratsley, Co-chair

Jim Terry, Treasurer

Leslie Burnard

Holly Cratsley

Lee Flight

Beverly Gauthier

Richard Gauthier

Daisuke Matsukura

Nancy McJennett

Jack Nevison

David Nurenberg

Junko Kargula, Advisor

Heather Bout, School Board Advisor

Two major events were the focus of CNN in 2017. The first was the annual visit to Concord on October 3-10 by a delegation of Nanae adults and students. The second was the visit to Nanae by a delegation of nineteen Concord adults at Nanae's invitation to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the sister city relationship in early November.



Members of the Concord Delegation cut a ceremonial ribbon in Japan at the naming of Concord Street. Concord's gift to Nanae, a Minuteman weathervane, can be seen in the background.

In October the Nanae adults followed an itinerary that included tours of the Orchard House, the Concord Museum, the Concord Main Library, a welcome lunch at CCHS, a welcome meeting with Select Board members and the Town Manager, a visit to the North Bridge, special interest tours, shopping, time spent

with their host families, a visit to Cambridge and Harvard University, and Quincy Market, a citizen sponsored welcome party, and a farewell dinner. Students home-stayed with the families of CCHS's Sci Fi Club, visited classes, participated in CCHS events, and followed an itinerary designed by Dr. Nurenberg. Thanks to the Concord and Carlisle families who made Nanae's entire visit another wonderful success.

Concord's delegation to Nanae in early November included members of CNN, a local business person, a member of the Board of Health, several school system members, two farmers, a member of the Select Board, and the Town's land planner, water superintendent, and the chief information officer, all of whom met with their Nanae counterparts.



The Nanae Delegation with members of Concord's Delegation in the Concord Select Board room.

Prior to the official celebration of Nanae's sixtieth birthday as an incorporated town and the anniversary of the sister city relationship, the delegation participated in several tours of Nanae and the environs, including a visit to a local geothermal plant. Special tours and meetings were arranged for the farmers and school people, and for members of Concord's town government.

The day of the celebration, November 3, opened with the dedication of the newly named Concord Street. Members of the delegation and Nanae officials cut the ribbon to officially open the street. On the stone post at the head of the street sat Concord's gift to Nanae, a large black metal Minuteman statue weather vane, Concord's gift to Nanae. In return, Nanae presented Concord with a striking handmade Ainu robe (the Ainu are the First Peoples of Japan).

Members of the delegation also traveled to Noboribetsu to see a volcano and the adjoining hot springs. They then visited Sapporo, Hokkaido's capital, met with a representative of the Hokkaido government, had a tour of the water museum, and visited other sights.

In 2022 CNN will organize a Concord celebration to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of this sister city relationship. Other trips to Nanae by both adults and students, as well as special events, will occur during the next few years, thanks to the participation and support of Concord citizens.

CCTV INC.

Neville Webb, President
 Tamarah Green, Executive Director
 Kester Krueger, Education and Outreach Manager
 Sam Krueger, Production Assistants
 Mike Dyer, Community Producer
 Brendan Crewe, Studio Manager

Directors:
 Sid Levin, Chuck Palmer, Tracy Brady, Karen Kugel,
 Susan Rieder, Seve Kirk



CCTV is a membership based non-profit, media center that opened in 2004. We are an independent corporation that operates under contracts with the Towns of Concord and Carlisle, and utilizes franchise fee revenues from Comcast to fund most of the operations of the station. As the PEG (Public, Education, and Government) cable access station, we provide universal public access to uncensored local community programming.

CCTV continues to be in full compliance with IRS and

Massachusetts regulations. The annual independent audit of our financial books and records demonstrates our excellent financial controls and oversight and, as always, that we continue to be in sound fiscal health.

Anyone who lives in Concord and subscribes to Comcast is able to watch CCTV's programming on Channel 8, 9 and 99. Interested viewers who either don't subscribe to Comcast, aren't a resident or simply are unable to tune in live can easily access CCTV's programming via our online streaming at <http://www.concordtv.org/> or through our video on demand feature at <http://www.concordtv.org/watch/video-on-demand>. It has never been easier to stay apprised of local politics and all that is happening in your own community. In fact, now it is even easier than ever. This past year, CCTV successfully launched a brand new logo, followed by a new website. Since then, page views have tripled in number and new video content is added daily. This new website includes features like a calendar of upcoming events, a revamped layout for the On Demand page that lets consumers browse through CCTV's work and a new webform that allows members to submit their ideas for programming. The community has truly responded to our streamlined website, which now boasts more than 5,000 hits in the past year. People from all over have viewed everything from municipal meetings, lectures, concerts, sporting events and more.

Residents, members, and producers continue to share their knowledge, dreams, and creative expression on CCTV's Public Channel. Our members have created original content full of new ideas while also visibly improving the production value of their work throughout the year. Their hard work, dedication, collaborative energy, and vision have led to a host of productions to be proud of!

The staff's dedication to the growth and goal achievement of these individuals remains steadfast. We continue to develop training methods that advance knowledge, accelerate skill acquisition, and enhance technical ability so that our members may realize their ambition to become accomplished television producers

Learning is a continuous process at CCTV. Our knowledgeable staff is always available to advise our members about all forms of media, and we encourage them to learn with us as we continue to offer new courses.

Providing access to, and training on, our equipment continues to be a primary focus at CCTV. Workshops at CCTV are project-specific and producers receive seamless personalized instruction in all production fields.

We extend an open invitation to those in the community who want to learn the craft of digital media production right in their own town. Orientation tours are easy to schedule as the CCTV studio is located in Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. These tours provide interested residents with an overview of our operation and an introduction to our equipment and training opportunities. Advanced classes, such as learning how to operate a camera, edit a program or use Photoshop are also offered.



CCTV Studio Space at Concord Carlisle High School

It has been a very productive year at CCTV, with more members participating and utilizing the available resources to create excellent programming. We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past year and we are gratified by the steady increase in scope, depth, and power of CCTV's contribution to Concord's social and cultural community life. We encourage you to view our community-produced programming, to look for our equipment and crews around town, and to become a member, a volunteer, or a producer at CCTV.

While we are profoundly excited about these new developments, we have no intention of resting on our laurels. We constantly challenge ourselves to come up with new ways to make residents more aware of what we offer; to create wider and deeper connections across all sectors of the community; and to inform, inspire, and engage our viewing audience with the aim of

weaving them more deeply into the tapestry of life in Concord and Carlisle.

THOREAU FARM TRUST

Margaret Carroll-Bergman, Executive Director
Ken Lizotte, President
Nancy McJennett, Vice President
Molly Eberle, Treasurer
Debbie Bier, Director
Courtland Booth, Director
Lawrence Buell, Director
Joseph Wheeler, Director
Jack Maguire, Director

Robert Pinsky, Honorary Chair
Bill McKibben, Honorary Director



Thoreau Farm Board of Directors, John "Jack" Maguire, President Ken Lizotte, Treasurer Molly Eberle, Vice President Nancy McJennett and Joseph Wheeler. Absent: Debbie Bier, Courtland Booth, Lawrence Buell

Thoreau Farm Trust, a nonprofit organization, serves as steward of the Henry David Thoreau birthplace on Virginia Road. At one time suffering from neglect and deterioration, the Thoreau birthplace has been transformed through a \$1 million restoration greatly supported by the local community, including Concord Community Preservation Act funding. The site is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and received two awards for the restoration project.

Thoreau Farm Trust offers a unique historic house experience for visitors from Concord and around the world. We believe Thoreau's extraordinary insights and

ideas about life, nature, and individual responsibility are as relevant today in the 21st century as they were during his lifetime, and so we view his birthplace as a source of inspiration for living deliberately, practicing simplicity, and exploring new ideas for positive change.

Tours and educational programming focus on Thoreau's ideas, stimulate discussion and debate with visitors, and encourage visitors to reflect on how they can live more deliberately in accordance with their own values. In 2017, Thoreau Farm Trust hosted programs on climate change; writing; the state of Walden Pond; author's talks; book launches; and meditation and yoga.

Thoreau Farm Trust and the Thoreau Society celebrated the Thoreau Bicentennial with a birthday bash to rival no other. Here are some highlights from that event:

- Thoreau Farm and the United States Postal Service held a special dedication ceremony for the Henry David Thoreau Forever Stamp on July 12, 2017 at Thoreau Farm, with a postmark commemorating the birthplace.
- Governor Charlie Baker signed a proclamation declaring July 12, 2017, Henry David Thoreau Day in the Commonwealth.
- Jane Hotchkiss, Chair of the Concord Select Board, Michael J. Barrett, State Senator, and Cory Atkins, State Representative, added to the festivities with proclamations and personal stories of what Henry David Thoreau means to them.
- The Boy Scouts of America collaborated with Thoreau Farm Trust and the Thoreau Society to create the new historic "Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail." The inaugural hike took place on July 12.
- Thorough Homes (www.thoroughhomes.com) built a replica of Thoreau's cabin on Thoreau Farm for the 200th. The cabin will serve as an exhibit until July 2019.
- And, Thoreau Farm Trust launched its collection of essays, "What Would Henry Do?: Essays for the 21st Century," to honor Henry and to commemorate the bicentennial. President Jimmy Carter; Thoreau Farm Trust founding director Joseph Wheeler; author Gregory Maguire; retired New York City police detective Frank Serpico; actor Edward Begley Jr.; and historic preservationist Anna West Winter; among

many other scholars, activists, and Thoreau enthusiasts are contributors.

In addition, other achievements and developments in 2017 include:

- A "writers retreat" located in the Thoreau birth room and available for rent by day, week or month
- Expert docents, who give tours every Saturday and Sunday, May through October, and by appointment
- 71 teachers from 30 states and the District of Columbia visited Thoreau Farm as part of the Concord Museum's National Endowment for the Humanities grant
- Partnered with Freedom's Way for "Hidden Treasures" program in May
- Guest bloggers to our blog, The Roost! Send your Transcendentalist insights to info@thoreaufarm.org for consideration.

As Henry wrote: "I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual." We thank the residents of Concord for their generous support and interest in Thoreau Farm.



This life size bronze bust of Henry by sculptor Richard Tucker was a birthday gift to Thoreau Farm by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Henry's birth house is in the background.

VETERANS' SERVICES



A memorial parade was held for Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Thomas Hudner following his passing in November.

The Veterans' Services program is mandated according to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115 and is administered under State guidelines to provide information, advice and assistance regarding benefits to veterans and their families. Every city and town in the Commonwealth is required to have a benefits program for its resident veterans and their dependents, as well as a Veterans' Services Officer. The Veterans' Services Officer must be a war-era veteran and be available to provide assistance. The Town is reimbursed by the State for 75% of benefits paid under this mandated program. With the support of the Commonwealth's House, Senate and Executive Office, Massachusetts is now recognized as having one of the most comprehensive veterans' programs in the nation.

The Office of Veterans' Services, located at 55 Church Street, advocates and provides critical services to those who have worn the uniform and their loved ones. At the start of the civil war in 1861, the state legislature formalized assistance provided to needy veterans by establishing M.G.L. Chapter 115 benefits and the Department of Veterans' Services to oversee Chapter 115 distribution in a constant effort to improve benefits and keep the up to date. Current benefits extend to "natural disasters" where benefits may apply to a loss resulting from a hurricane, blizzard or tornado. The Veterans' Service Officer will help Veterans complete their application for Chapter 115 benefits which offers a need-based program of financial and medical assistance for Veterans and their dependents. The mission of the Veterans' Services Officer has grown to

encompass the full range of VA federal benefits, rehabilitation, employment and educational opportunities, military records, tax exemptions, housing and shelter assistance, annuities, funeral assistance and care and decoration of veterans' graves. Financial assistance to qualified veterans and their dependents is provided, in accordance with State and federal regulations.

Our veteran population is dropping very rapidly but from 2001 to 2017 we have tens of thousands of new veterans in the Commonwealth. This increase is due to Women Veterans, Latino Veterans and African American Veterans. This is a very small amount returning compared to veterans that returned from WWII.

Program Implementation

The Veterans' Services Officer responds to daily calls requesting information, advice and assistance. With so many veterans and their families facing profound challenges related to their service and the current economy, the Veterans' Services Officer has become more important than ever.

The Veterans' Services Officer often helps veterans obtain assistance from veterans' organizations as well as other local, State and federal organizations, such as community services, youth services and Social Security. The Veterans' Services Officer also has been called upon to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for veterans when there is no other transportation available. Currently there are ten individuals receiving financial assistance for qualifying Chapter 115 benefits.

The Veterans' Services Officer has been networking with local civic groups, senior citizen groups and area veterans' organizations as well as families of service members currently deployed. He has assisted at veterans' funerals, worked with students and presenters at Veterans' Day and Memorial Day exercises, served as a guest speaker in some high school and elementary school classes as well as for Rotary Club of Concord, the Lions Club of Concord, Concord Deaconess, and Concord Park Assisted Living. In addition to reaching out to veterans in obtaining "alternative sources of income", he has generated veteran related programming for the local cable television channel.

For information or assistance on Veterans' Services please call 978-318-3038 or e-mail dkrug@concordma.

gov. For information about services, events, and other veterans' organizations please visit Concord's web page at www.concordma.gov/clerk/veterans.htm.

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2017 Applications for Concord Veterans' Services	
Prescription Benefits	108
Hugh Cargill Trust	7
Death Benefits	7
Military Medals and Flags	9
Housing Benefits	85
Military Records	21
Assisted Living	9
Health Benefits	72
Transportation	29
Employment	24
Aid & Attendance	15
SNAP Food Assistance	12
Chapter 115	109
Disability Filing	5
Fuel Assistance	70
Disability Tax Abatement	44
VA Forms	31
Veterans' Outreach	12
Financial Assistance	106
Social Security	84
Well Being Checks	5
Annuities	7
Post GI Bill	2
Veteran Grave Flags	2600
2017 Concord Veteran Count	635

REGISTRAR OF VETERANS GRAVES

Harold Nichols, Registrar

There were 33 internments of United States Veterans in Concord cemeteries in 2017. The names of the Veterans, their respective wars, date of burials, and place of burial are as follows:

VETERAN'S NAME	PERIOD OF DUTY	INTERNMENT DATE	CEMETERY
John F. Flynn	Korea	January 6, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Thomas Welch	Peacetime	January 26, 2017	St. Bernard's
George Theofilos	Korea	February 7, 2017	St. Bernard's
Richard Welch	Korea	February 25, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Leo McGrath	Korea	March 30, 2017	St. Bernard's
David Carlstrom	Vietnam	April 14, 2017	St. Bernard's
William D. Andrews	Korea	May 28, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Charles a. Caretti	World War II	June 12, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Arthur B. Johnson	World War II	June 17, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Everett H. Frost	Korea	June 17, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Elmer M. Purcell	World War II	June 21, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Martin R Santis	Vietnam	June 22, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
John L. Ramsay	Vietnam	June 30, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
David K. Burnett	World War II, Korea	July 1, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Raymond Gray	Vietnam	July 15, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Robert H. Damon	Korea	August 1, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Gene M. Brown	World War II	August 8, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Frank B. Hills	Korea	August 19, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Richard E. Petersen	World War II	August 25, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Edmund H. Tunnicliffe	World War II	August 29, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Henry S. Thompson Jr.	World War II	September 9, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Gerald T. Zyfers	Korea	October 7, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Victor M. Tyler	Peacetime	October 14 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Mark E. Connelly	World War II	October 21, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Duane L. Jones	Korea	October 21, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Parker Vanderhoof	World War II	October 22, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
Albert Magurn	Korea	November 4, 2017	St. Bernard's
John Carl Welsh	Vietnam	November 10, 2017	St. Bernard's
Edward Murphy	World War II	November 27, 2017	St. Bernard's
Lorraine Hanson	Peacetime	December 2, 2017	St. Bernard's
Nancy McCarthy	Korea	December 15, 2017	Sleepy Hollow
John Schipelliti	Korea	December 28, 2017	St. Bernard's
Edward Stefaniak	World War II	December 30, 2017	St. Bernard's