

# HUMAN SERVICES

## COUNCIL ON AGING - SENIOR SERVICES



*Standing from left: Margaret Hoag, Ginger Quarles, COA Director; Jan Kenneally, Murray Nicholson, Michael Rudd, Arthur Alcaez, Chair. Seated from left: Meryl Schwartz, Ann Schummers, Phebe Downey. Not Pictured: Pam Hanson and Sharyn Lenhart.*

The mission of the Council on Aging (COA) is to promote a good 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 2015 Town Census, there are 4,632 Concord residents over the age of 60 and this represents nearly 30% of the total population of Concord. This is far above the State average (which was about 16% at the last Federal census) and the number of seniors is expected to continue to rise for the next several years.

The following is a sampling of service statistics for FY15: 1,785 seniors were active at the COA; 66% were female and 34% were male. 179 new seniors began participating for the first time at the COA. 218 seniors used the van service and received 7,026 rides. 387 seniors used Outreach/Social Services and received 3,446 units of service/contacts.

### *Outreach/Social Services*

COA professional staff provides advice, assessment, consultation, and referrals to seniors and their support network (family, friends and neighbors) and adheres to strict standards of confidentiality. Their ex-

tensive and specialized knowledge of resources helps 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. The COA offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group and a Low Vision Support Group. In July, we were able to add five hours a week of additional outreach time to meet increasing demand. We convened a group of key Town employees to discuss the problem of hoarding and the appropriate ways for the Town to try to help residents who struggle with this issue.

### *Wellness and Fitness*

The COA offers a wide diversity of program and fitness opportunities that contribute to the overall health of Concord seniors. We offer regular health clinics (blood pressure, podiatry, blood sugar, flu vaccination) and screenings (hearing and vision) as well as a variety of speakers on a myriad of health topics. The COA offers the free loan of durable medical equipment, and our nurse is available for individual consultation as needed. The following fitness opportunities continued to be offered: Aerobics, Tai Chi, Strength and Flexibility, Yoga (Floor and Chair) and a Walking Group. This past year we offered a 12-week Aging Mastery course designed by the National Council on Aging that 35 seniors completed.

### *Social, Recreational and Educational Opportunities*

We understand the importance of creating opportunities to interact with peers, and stay intellectually active through a well-rounded and comprehensive program. We offer day trips, speaker's series, movies, parties, computer tutoring, discussion groups, craft workshops, book groups, games, music classes, memoir writing, and a drama club just to name a few. This year we put on our first ever Fashion Show with our seniors as models. We collaborated with Healthy Concord to offer an evening program entitled "The Maturing Family" to assist families who are trying to help their aging parents or relatives. We continue to offer a very popular annual Veteran's Breakfast. 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.

#### *Transportation*

Our vans provide weekday local transportation for seniors who no longer drive or who have a temporary limitation. We are now offering an extra van three days a week in order to meet increasing demand. In addition to providing transportation around Town to attend events at the COA, go to medical appointments, go grocery shopping, or visit an ill relative, we also provide transportation to the Annual Town Meeting and to vote on Election Day. Late this year, we were able to transition a part time van driver position to a benefited van driver position, which is providing important continuity to our service.

#### *Additional Support Services*

The COA offers these additional services: “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, AARP tax return assistance program, fall clean up days and the delivery of buckets of sand for winter.

#### *Volunteers*

The COA has a robust volunteer program. Volunteers greatly enhance and support the work of the staff, and we happily welcome additional interested individuals. It is because we have so many dedicated volunteers who offer their time and talent that we are able to offer such a rich mixture of programming.

#### *Senior Worker Positions*

The COA currently offers three seniors positions of employment through the Town’s senior worker program. Having this positions helps to support the staff and increase our program offerings.

#### *Financial Support*

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

Concord-Carlisle Community Chest: Funding is providing partial or full funding for the following posi-

tions: 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 partial or full funding for the following positions: Wellness Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, and Activity Coordinators. Thanks to an increase in funding that many supporters advocated for, we were able to add additional Outreach hours for FY16.

Concord Friends of the Aging: Funding is granted for the distribution of the monthly newsletter and many programs and events throughout the year.

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

#### *COA Board*

The COA Board consists of nine full members appointed for three-year terms and two associate members appointed for one-year terms by the Town Manager. One member serves as a representative to Minuteman Senior Services, and one member acts as a liaison with the Concord Housing Authority. There is also a small group that has worked on putting together a COA history this year, and they hope to finish the project in 2016. Five members of the Board attended board training put on by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Two members attended the well-received Board and Committee training offered by the Town of Concord. The COA Board acts in an advisory capacity to the COA Director.

### **COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY**

Jean Goldsberry, Chair  
David Holdorf, Clerk  
Jennifer Brooke  
Marybeth Barker  
Lloyd Price  
Meryl Schwartz  
Alice Van Deusen

The Committee on Disability was formed by the Select Board in 2014, with the fundamental charge to review all issues of accessibility and full integration of the disabled, whether a new project, an on-going

project, or a citizen complaint. The convening meeting was held in December 2014, and the Committee has met monthly. Many accessibility issues have been brought to the attention of the Committee since that time, and the Committee has followed up on each issue. The Committee is proactive relative to issues of disability. Following is a list of some important agenda items from the past year:

- Meetings with other Town Committees and Town Departments
- Review of parking accessibility for Walden Pond Visitor Center
- Review of stairs and handicap access for Heywood Meadows
- Meeting with CC at Play concerning accessibility at new athletic fields
- Review of accessibility at Town Meeting
- Implementation of web page and email contact information
- Second review of Heywood Meadow project
- Meeting with Rabbi Darby to review access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Attended State-wide Committee on Disability Meeting
- Attended Town Committee Training
- Met with MBTA, Town Select Board Chair, Cory Atkins and Senator Barrett's staff to discuss accessibility at Concord MBTA train station
- Hosted 25th Anniversary Celebration for the ADA at Fowler Library
- Second review of accessibility at CCHS fields
- Reviewed access at Lowell Road boat launch
- Reviewed proposed renovations at First Parish Church
- Supported grant request for Concord Children's Center for development of accessible outdoor space
- Third review and meeting with School Committee member concerning access at CCHS fields

## COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR

Aileen Buford,  
Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) position was established in 2005 by the Town of Concord in collaboration with Concord-Carlisle Community Chest with the purpose of assisting 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 a part-time position, funded completely by a grant from the Concord Carlisle Community Chest.

Due to an increased need for services, the CSC position was increased to 30 hours in 2013 and to 40 hours in July of 2014. In 2014, the Town of Concord contributed 25% of the funding of the position while the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest contributed 75%. The Town of Concord increased its funding contribution during 2015 while the Concord Carlisle Community Chest continued to provide the same funding support as 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.

The Community Services Coordinator's office location was moved to the first floor of the 105 Everett Street Building to be more accessible to all residents of Concord and Carlisle. The office can be accessed easily through the front entrance of the building with a space for private and confidential meetings.

The CSC continues to aid individuals and families in accessing needed services on a variety of fronts. Referrals on behalf of Concord and Carlisle residents over the course of the year have increased steadily. Referrals were made to food assistance programs, home mortgage counseling programs, job assistance agencies, mental health services, Concord Cares, fuel assistance programs, lower-income legal services, disability advocacy, low-cost health care options, holiday assistance, temporary/emergency housing, financial assistance, tax relief assistance, after-school and summer camp scholarships.

The CSC collaborates with community agencies that provide assistance to Concord and Carlisle families. During the Christmas season the CSC nominated 43 families for assistance from the Silent Fund program as compared to 22 families in 2014. During the holiday season \$5,640 in gift card donations were collected from Town of Concord employees, residents and the Concord Corinthian Lodge Masonic Angel Fund, this was an increase from the \$4,975 donated in 2014. Several thousands of dollars in gifts and toys were donated through the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest and Youth Services gift drive for distribution to over 66 Concord families and 3 Carlisle families for Christmas assistance. Gifts were received from Concord residents, Concord businesses and community organizations, such as The Giving Gals, The Willard Boy Scout Troop and The Mane Escape.

The CSC makes contact with challenged Concord individuals and families and provides referrals for a variety of needed services. The CSC works collaboratively with Concord Public Schools, Concord Housing Authority, the Domestic Violence Services Network, Minuteman Arc, the Concord and Carlisle Councils on Aging, the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest, the Concord-Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator, the Concord Veteran's Agent, the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Hugh Cargill Trust, the Salvation Army, Concord's First Parish Church, the Concord Police and Fire Departments, the Concord Masons, the Concord Municipal Light Plant, Concord Recreation, Open Table, Concord Adult Community Education, the Concord Library, Concord Cares team, Carlisle Public Schools, the Concord Planning and Development Dept., the Concord Health Department, SMOC, SNAP and Mass Health.

The CSC continues to be a point of contact in conjunction with Council on Aging, Police and Fire Departments as well as Concord's Veteran's Agent and Youth Services Coordinator for the Concord Cares Emergency Fuel Assistance Program, which provides 75 gallons of home heating oil to any Concord resident who is in emergency need. Also, the CSC is a referral source for the Beacon Santa program, the Silent Fund program, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund program, SMOC fuel assistance and SNAP.

In conjunction with the Concord-Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator, the Community Services Coordinator revised, printed and distributed the Concord Community Social Service Resource Guide. The Guide is available online as well as in hard copy form.

Residents can contact the Concord-Carlisle Community Services Coordinator by phone, email or schedule a confidential appointment either in the office or their home, to discuss their particular referral needs. For additional information or assistance please contact the Community Services Coordinator at 978-318-3034 or [abuford@concordma.gov](mailto:abuford@concordma.gov) or [www.concordma.gov/community](http://www.concordma.gov/community).

### **YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR & YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Jeffrey Campbell  
Suzanne Giles  
Jennifer Lannan  
Patricia Vasiliadis

Jennifer Clarke, Youth Services Coordinator

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). The Youth Services Coordinator's (YSC) 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 YSC 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 revolved around three priorities: 1) suicide awareness and prevention; 2) stress reduction and mindfulness; 3) substance abuse prevention. 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:

- Revised and distributed 2015 Concord Social Services Resource Guide in conjunction with Community Services Coordinator and Town of

Concord summer intern. This 73-page A-Z resource listing is available online and in hard copy versions.

- 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.
- Health & Wellness Fairs at Concord-Carlisle High School.
- Rotary Club “Reality Fair” for CCHS seniors.
- Hosted Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention, cosponsored with the New England chapter, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). This event raised \$20,000 for AFSP who in turn offered Youth Mental Health First Aid training at low-cost to Concord and Carlisle residents. This year’s event attracted 250+ walkers.
- Developed and implemented outreach campaigns including Back to School backpack drive (60+ distributed) and Holiday Youth Gift Drive in conjunction with Community Services to assist 63 families, representing approximately 140 children.

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 resource links under Youth Services on the Town of Concord website; and frequently contributes to the *Concord Journal* with articles highlighting achievements of our youth.

## HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

J. Raymond Andrews  
Paul LoVecchio  
Susan Eckel  
Christopher Corkery  
Judy Terry

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 211 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 Board of Selectmen 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. All requests are kept confidential.

Funds totaling \$136,304 were received in 2015 from the following sources: The Hugh Cargill Trust Fund: \$14,000; Private donations to the Hugh Cargill Fund: \$12,518; the Concord Municipal Light Plant: \$17,000; Select Board Tax Relief Appeal: \$92,549; Concord Cares: \$200; these generous contributions from the above mentioned sources were crucial to the Committee’s efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 70 grants totaling \$24,710 from the Hugh Cargill Trust and donor fund. The average grant was \$353. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, gas, telephone and water). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, medical expenses, and insurance.

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee has been designated by the Select Board to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Annual Appeal. 46 Concord residents received a reduction in their Real Estate Tax bill each quarter. The total grants given were \$50,875.

The Hugh Cargill Trust also keeps track of the funds dispersed by Concord Cares for citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. The total funds dispersed were \$1,716.75 to 9 Concord citizens. The Trust does not authorize these distributions. That is done by other Concord services such as the Community Services Coordinator, the Police Dept., the Fire Dept., the COA and others.

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

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2016 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



*From left: Stan Black, Helena Long, Terry Rothermel.*

The Tax Relief Committee was established in 2011 to carry out a private donation program that had previously been handled by the Select Board. Thus the Tax Relief Fund succeeded the Select Board's Fund that had been initiated in 2006. The 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 other caring citizens of Concord.

The Hugh Cargill Committee screens the applicants for tax relief from this fund and subsequently provides quarterly grants towards (i.e., credits against) their property tax obligations. The tax relief grants made by the Hugh Cargill Committee have annually helped 40 to 50 Concord households in recent years. Most of those receiving this aid are seniors on fixed incomes or other households struggling to stay in Concord. Grants of \$275 were made quarterly, leading to a maximum of \$1,100 over a year's time.

Annual contributions have averaged over \$60,000 over the life of the fund. The number of annual donors has averaged over 200. In the last few years, the

initial solicitations were sent out in September so as to honor October and November fundraising by our Community Chest. It has been a recent practice to send a reminder letter in December to recent donors.

Every three years, initial solicitations are Town-wide. In 2012, for example, that larger mailing nearly doubled the number of contributors. In this current year, initial mailings were again Town-wide. Donations to the current campaign will continue to be gratefully received through June 30, 2016.

We continue to be impressed with the heartfelt contributions of so many to this purpose. We are thankful for the support of Ruth Lauer and Laurel Landry in the Town House. This year we wish to especially honor the special service of Demi Ayres during her years on the Tax Relief Committee.

If you are in need and would benefit (or know someone who would benefit) from the assistance of the Tax Relief Fund, please contact the Hugh Cargill Committee at 978-318-3100, ext. 2030. Qualifications include ownership of only one home, a property value less than the median in Concord, and limited income resources. The qualification process is confidential.

### CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE



*From left: Beverly Gauthier, Heather Peachey, Mav Pardee, Kerry Cronin, Library Director; Sandy Shen, Carl Vause, Kitty Rothermel, Matt Boger, Chair.*

The mission of the Concord Free Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning and to actively promote personal enrichment by connecting community mem-

bers to information, ideas, culture, unique historical resources and each other, in a tradition of service, innovation and excellence.

The Library Committee consists of seven Concordians appointed by the Select Board for the purpose of:

- Providing policy guidance to the Library Director
- Recommending policy and organizational methods to the Select Board
- Serving as liaison between the Library and the Trustees of the Library Corporation, governmental units, and private groups that relate to Library services.

The Library Committee was very active, reviewing policies and procedures, new devices to check out books, DVDs, and other materials easily and efficiently, and helped create a new logo for the library. The logo is a great source of pride for the Committee – distinct enough that it will be easily recognized as the Concord Public Free Library while also representing the great history and the importance of learning that Concord holds for its community. Additionally, the Committee developed a policy for the new telescope generously donated to the library for patrons to check-out. Throughout the year the Committee heard staff reports on wonderful library activities and programs including the activities focusing on young adults, children, teens, and the adult population. Each year the Committee enjoys hearing from Leslie Wilson of the Library's Special Collections.

The Committee is also excited about the utilization of the property right next to the library at 151 Main Street and possibilities of including it into the daily activities of the library. A feasibility study regarding the next steps for the projects is eagerly awaited. The Library Committee will keep the community informed as the plan progresses.

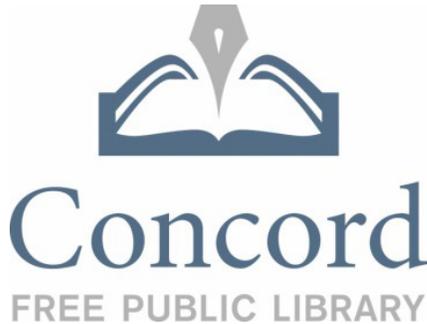
Among the duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- Provide policy guidance to the Library Director relative to the provision of library services for the community. Make recommendations concerning the hours of operation for the libraries and concerning general operations.

- Provide recommendations to the Town Manager concerning the general operation of the libraries, consistent with applicable law and regulations. Review on-going operations regularly and suggest improvements in operations to more efficiently utilize resources or improve service to patrons.
- Assist the Library Director in developing a comprehensive financial operating plan to be recommended to the Town Manager. The plan should include revenue from all sources, including gifts, grants, donations, fines, and other income. Review grant applications concerning library services prior to submittal.
- Provide a liaison to the Library Trustees and consider issues concerning facilities under the control of the Trustees. Review and comment upon the impact of building needs and building plans upon current library operations.
- Establish policies concerning acquisition, circulation, retention and preservation of library materials. Establish a schedule of fines and fees relative to library services, to be reviewed from time to time. Recommend methods of using new technologies to improve service and enhance operations.
- Assist the Library Director with any special studies relating to library services as needed.
- Serve as the Town's liaison with other governmental units, institutions and private groups in matters concerning library services.
- Submit an Annual Report on library activities for incorporation into the Annual Town Report.
- With the approval of the Select Board, appoint such special advisory committees to examine specific aspects of library service as may be desirable from time to time. Such special advisory committees are intended to draw upon resources available in the community and may include citizens who are not currently members of the Library Committee.
- Comply with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, Conflict of Interest Law, and all other regulations and laws of the Commonwealth and the Town of Concord.

The public is cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Library Committee, traditionally held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM either at the main branch or at Fowler.

**CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ADMINISTRATION**



Kerry Cronin,  
Library Director

The Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) continues to thrive as we deliver programs and services in support of community interests and mission fulfillment. During FY15 CFPL experienced increases in overall circulation and in the number of program participants and programs offered. Several programs were oversubscribed and relocated to the Fowler Branch Library where there is a dedicated programming space. Popular programs included: a talk based on *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for the Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* with two local Olympic rowers, a new cookbook club where participants share their creations with the group, and an engaging series in honor of the 200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen's *Emma*, complete with afternoon tea.

Based on feedback received during 2014 focus groups, CFPL launched a quarterly Teen Conversations Series on topics of interest to high school students, which has also been well received. Cultural programming developed in partnership with the Korean Cultural Society of Boston and the Umbrella Community Arts Center was particularly noteworthy, as was the series "Concord Reads about Abraham Lincoln," which coincided with the Special Collections exhibit, "This Man Grew According to the Need: Concord and Abraham Lincoln" and included programs and activities for all ages.

CFPL was fortunate to receive a \$7,500 LSTA grant award from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for the project, "Full STEAM Ahead," which will enable the Library to offer STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) related programming for children over the course of the year. This initiative is off to a great start with a recent scarecrow festival, story walks, cardboard challenge, and bulb plantings.

Enhancements to improve library use are ongoing and CFPL recently launched a new logo, following a collaborative selection process. In addition, the library's website is being redesigned with an anticipated mid-year completion. New self-checkout kiosks at both locations are fast and easy to use and integrate with the Novelist database to offer reading recommendations. Digital media collections continue to grow to keep pace with increasing demand.

Thank you to my colleagues at the Concord Free Public Library for their hard work, creativity and dedicated service to the Concord community, to the Library Corporation Trustees, Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, and our many volunteers and supporters.

Congratulations and best wishes to several staff members who retired in 2015 as follows: Milda Contoyannis, Patty Diotte, Deborah Ervin, and Mary Taylor.

Please enjoy the following report of the Library's 2015 activities.

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT SERVICES**

The children's and young adult department enjoy helping people of all ages. Our areas are a hub of much activity, from weekly story times to monthly toddler sing-alongs with musician and singer Ed Morgan. A weekly Stay and Play, a self-directed activity program for young children, took place during the cold days of winter. 3rd graders met monthly to learn about books in the BookEaters program and 4th and 5th graders met monthly to discuss books in the BookMarkers program. Children read to Phoebe the Golden Retriever in a monthly program to encourage reading in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

During March, the Library sponsored Concord Reads about Abraham Lincoln, a month-long program highlighting the book, *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. A doll display illustrating Civil War dress was in the hobby cases. An Abraham Lincoln themed puzzle was put out for all to enjoy, and a huge silhouette of Abraham Lincoln was put up for children to adhere pennies to. The BookEaters club members took old fashioned photographs of each other in costume and framed the pictures. Tom Caldwell from Northeast Numismatics in Concord gave a talk on coins and how Lincoln came to be on the penny and five dollar bill. Peter Lovis from the Concord Cheese Shop discussed the history of cheese making, especially during the Civil War.

We celebrated April's Earth Month with a program given by Bryan Windmiller from Concord's Grassroots Wildlife Conservation, Inc. He spoke about his organization's conservation efforts to increase the Great Meadows Blanding's Turtle and brought several live turtles for the audience to see.

In May we were very pleased to be a part of the month-long collaborative program to celebrate Korean Family Month. Members of the local Korean community mounted an art show in the Library's gallery and in the children's room display cases. The celebration included an afternoon of arts and crafts at the Main Library and a gala evening of music, dance and traditional food at the Umbrella Community Arts Center.

We had a very busy summer, with children and teens joining the on-line summer reading program. The superhero theme was used in the annual origami workshop given by origami master Michael LaFosse. Tone Thyne of Fablevision spoke about animation. Cartoonist Paul Merklein drew superheroes. The Family Movies included films with a superhero theme. The popular concerts on the lawn were all held outside this summer because of the great weather. Samba Tremeterra played Latin music. Panache Quartet entertained with traditional fiddle music. Johnny Fireseed and the Junkyard Dogs played instruments made of recycled materials.

During the summer the Library also hosted a day long knit-a-thon during which people knitted 4 X 4

inch squares that were sewn together to make blankets. This project was in support of Concord resident, Jules Struck who collected knitted items for the Syrian refugees as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award. A basket was made available for people to drop off hats, mittens, scarves, sweaters and blankets that were sent to refugee camps via a good will foundation.

The Concord Free Public Library was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant highlighting the importance of S.T.E.A.M. programs. Youth Services Librarian and project manager, Fayth Chamberland is coordinating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math related activities for children over the course of the next year. A Cardboard Challenge took place, with families fashioning their own creations from cardboard scraps. Different departments from the Town of Concord took part in the first annual Scarecrow Festival. The Library's front lawn was dotted with numerous scarecrows made using the S.T.E.A.M. principles. A StoryWalk of *The Little Scarecrow Boy* by Margaret Wise Brown was positioned around the lawn so that families could read the story while viewing the scarecrows. Another fun grant project was daffodil bulb planting by the Library's little gardeners. We look forward to the spring when the flowers decorate the side of the building. A discovery table has been set up in front of the children's reference desk. A Zoomy Digital Microscope was set up for the viewing of objects under the microscope. Finally, educational toys have been purchased so that the children can learn while they play during their visits.

This year's October Massachusetts Archaeology Month included a talk by Margaret Watters, PhD about the little known second encounter by Lexington's Captain Parker and his militia with the redcoats as they retreated through the present day Minute Man National Historical Park on their way to Boston on April 19, 1775. The Parker's Revenge talk updated the archaeological study that began two years ago.

The children's department has assisted the Concord Museum every year for the past 20 years with the Family Trees holiday program, an exhibit of trees fancifully decorated throughout the Museum. Each decorated tree is based on a children's book, including

some new and old favorites. This is a fun culmination of a year's worth of collaboration with the Museum staff.

Teen patrons have become very comfortable using the Library. The school bus stops at the Library as an after-school drop-off. Teens attend programs, do homework or just visit with friends. Twice during the year, the Library provides extended hours on the Sundays preceding mid-term and final exams.

As this is being written, we are awaiting the annual gingerbread creation by the talented and generous Dr. Andrea Resciniti. Because this creates such excitement by residents of all ages, we have started offering a workshop for children to decorate pre-made graham cracker houses.

#### FOWLER BRANCH

The Fowler Branch Library enjoyed a busy year with many service improvements and a variety of programming options for all ages. In support of the Library's Full STEAM Ahead grant award, Theresa Maturevich, Branch Librarian has incorporated STEAM elements into the monthly Concord Carousel story times. In addition, Fowler hosted a StoryWalk in October, which served to promote a Cardboard Challenge program where families built 'cabins' out of cardboard boxes. Children also planted crocus bulbs near the outside book return, which we look forward to seeing bloom in the spring.

The majority of last year's programs continued into 2015 including:

- Baby story time for children under 2 and their caregivers (Fall-Spring).
- Drop-In story time for children aged 2-6 and their caregivers (Summer).
- Monthly story times for four Concord Carousel classrooms (Fall-Spring).
- Monthly family concerts from musician Ed Morgan.
- Lego Challenge, a monthly after-school event for Grades K-5 (Fall-Spring).
- Annual Halloween Party for Grades K-5.

- Teen Craft (formerly Teen Advisory Board), a monthly after-school event for Grades 6-8 (Fall-Spring).
- Book-a-Mystery Discussion Group, a monthly book discussion group.
- Drop-in Tech Help, a monthly opportunity for patrons to get technology advice.
- Saturday Matinées for families, which are generally held monthly.

During the summer Fowler staff members also introduced a number of new programs. The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library generously sponsored visits from both the Museum of Science and Sparky's Puppets, as well as a 'Superhero Training Camp' designed by library staff for young children. We also created 'Explorer's Club' for Grades 3 and up, a 5-week program designed to explore STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concepts. Programs included: designing catapults for marshmallows, programming with MaKey circuit boards, and experimenting with fluorescent liquids.

The Concord Seed Lending Library continues to be popular and this year's staff focus involved a great deal of data gathering. In an effort to learn more about how the program was being used, staff members conducted regular inventories and were able to devise an improved lending system for 2016. They also created a new labeling and packaging system designed to better inform borrowers on how to save and return seeds, as well as how to protect the seeds from sunlight. We also worked with volunteers to coordinate a programming schedule and regular inventories for 2016.

Fowler staff members continue to seek new ways to improve patron access to materials. Special attention was paid to weeding items in the adult fiction, adult nonfiction, and juvenile collections, as those collections were reaching shelving capacity. We were also able to replace editions that were in poor condition, such as the plays of William Shakespeare. The Young Adult collection was reorganized in an effort to improve the browsing experience for patrons. Initial circulation numbers appear promising due to these recent improvements. Shelving and display space for DVDs was expanded. It remains one of our more

popular collections. Updated signage has been added to help direct patrons and improve aesthetics.

A telescope has been added to the circulating collection. Staff members have been busy learning how to use the device, becoming familiar with the borrowing policy, and adding space and astronomy themed items to the collection in preparation for its debut scheduled for early January 2016. We are grateful to the Moir family for their generosity in making this new service available.

Theresa Maturevich maintains CFPL's social media accounts, which have continued to grow in popularity. The Library's Facebook page currently has 261 likes and the Concord Seed Lending Library 314. Both are generally monitored daily and updates are scheduled via HootSuite though volunteers assist with the Seed Library page. The Pinterest has not seen much local access and therefore regular updates will be less frequent. Instead, the Library has launched an Instagram account to see if there is local appeal. A YouTube account will also be opened to store staff-made videos which will allow us to offer that service without using our own bandwidth to house them.

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

The Circulation Department at the Main Library continued to serve the community using leading edge technology. The addition of a 3M model RFID self-checkout station not only allows for easier self-service for those patrons who desire it but it also gives us the ability to provide customized communication both on screen and on printed receipts. Statistical programs have provided the staff with increased specialty information. For example we are able to calculate that for the first 11 months of this year, 40,000 requested items were processed at the Main Library for pick up by our patrons and over 2,000 museum pass reservations were made, providing free or reduced admission to many local and Boston area destinations. The new Commonwealth Catalog went live in March. This replacement of the former Virtual Catalog offers patrons another resource sharing option with libraries from other Massachusetts Library Networks. Delivering great service also means caring for the library's collection. The Circulation Department,

in collaboration with other staff, shifted and relocated various collections to create better visibility and maximize available space.

Outreach continues to be an important function of the library. From January 26 – February 1, 2015 the library partnered with Concord's Open Table Food Pantry to offer a Food for Fines program that provided patrons an opportunity to donate non-perishable food items in lieu of paying owed library fines. We were very pleased with the response. Ongoing outreach programs continue to be provided by the Circulation Department to Concord's public and private schools, MCI Prison Outreach, FMC Devens, Drumlin Farm, New England Deaconess and Concord Park. In addition, the Direct to You Home Delivery service for homebound Concord residents continues to be well used.

Circulation	414,084
Collection holdings	312,701
Interlibrary loans received from other libraries	46,572
Interlibrary loans provided to other libraries	76,461
Number of registered Concord borrowers	11,889
New items (excl. magazines) added to collections	11,000+
Audio books and music CDs holdings	15,625
DVDs Holdings	12,184
eBooks and eAudiobooks (Holdings)	34,635
Downloads & Streaming	40,067
Total hours the Main & Fowler libraries open	5871
Number of children's programs held	187
# of Children's programs total attendance	3,887
# of Adult and Young Adult programs held	203
# of Adult & Young Adult programs total attendance	3,728
Public free wifi access logins per month (avg)	3,000+
Library website views per month (avg)	140,000+

Staff development is a priority and Circulation staff members attended training programs and conferences including AED/CPR, Commonwealth Catalog, Decision Center for statistics, Massachusetts Library Association Conference and various training sessions provided by the Minuteman Library Network.

The Circulation Department welcomed several new staff members including Greg Carter, Yvonne Medina, Reni Cunningham, Sally Duscha and Olivia Hanselman and we said goodbye to staff members

Milda Contoyannis, Patty Diotte, Donna Andreason, Bharti Joshi and Martha Proctor. We also recognize the continued support of volunteers Kathy Dwyer, Susan Birge, Guillaume Hoog and Hannah Yelin.

#### REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The CFPL welcomed Nathalie Harty as the new Head of Reference. Selected from among 24 applicants, Nathalie brings 16 years of professional library experience in public, school, and special libraries to this role. During her first few months in Concord, Nathalie has assisted with publicity and introduced dynamic and creative programming for adults, such as the new Cookbook Club and will soon lead a monthly book discussion group. We are delighted that Nathalie has joined us in this role.

The Reference Department continues to be a vital resource for all age groups, keeping up with the public's demands in assisting them with different technologies and devices, resources like databases, reader's advisory services, and a vital interlibrary loan service.

As in the previous year, staff has been busy assisting patrons with their devices and downloading electronic content. They offer support, both individually and in scheduled workshops on digital resources like Hoopla movies, Zinio digital magazines and e-books. The self-service fax machine and scanner continue to be very popular. Reference staff is responsible for booking meeting rooms, which are used by the public.

In December CFPL received a gift of a 2002 Minolta Microfilm Reader from the Winchester Public Library. It replaced an older model that the Reference Department makes available for public use and will be a support to researchers utilizing materials available on microfilm.

The Reference Department staff answered 6,095 in person reference questions; 2,134 phone reference questions; and 101 email reference questions. Reference staff helped 1,510 patrons with computer questions. The library's meeting rooms were reserved 1,328 times.

Reference staff participated in the Community Reads Lincoln this past spring as well as the summer reading program for adults featuring the title *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*.

The reference librarians are constantly improving their knowledge about new trends and resources and looking at new ways to offer services to the community. The Minuteman Library Network of which the library is a member launched a new Encore catalog resource enabling people to search articles, reviews, books and OverDrive holdings all at once. The reference librarians are well equipped to assist patrons with searching the new catalog.

#### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special Collections served close to 1,600 on-site researchers over the course of the year and answered a steady flow of e-mail, telephone, and mail inquiries.

From November 2014 through February 2015, we commemorated the national Civil War anniversary and the anniversary of Lincoln's assassination through the gallery exhibition and accompanying lecture series "This man grew according to the need': Concord and Abraham Lincoln." The final two of four lectures (by Rick Frese and Len Gougeon) took place in January and February of 2015. Collaborating with library staff members in other departments, Curator Leslie Wilson led two book groups in connection with the subject of the display (one on *Lincoln's Boys*, one on *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*).

Departmental staff dedicated much of the winter, spring, and summer to planning and preparing the fall/winter exhibition "The reality which surrounds us': Thoreau's Landscape in Survey, Text, and Image," on view in the library Art Gallery October-December 2015. On October 16, the Library Corporation hosted a wonderful opening event, featuring a reception, a lively lecture by author and University of Connecticut professor Robert Thorson, and a concert based on Sophia Thoreau's collection of sheet music in the Special Collections.

Connie Manoli-Skocay filled the exhibition showcases in the library front lobby, outside Special Collections, and at the Fowler Branch through 2015. Subjects in-

cluded Civil War envelopes, the liberation of Dachau (drawn from Norman Beecher materials), H. Whittemore Brown's panoramic photographs of Concord, Janie Paul's *The River*, Christmas cards from Special Collections, the musical work of Katherine K. Davis, Thoreau's Cape Cod at 150, documentation of the Ball-Tarbell-Benson House (formerly on Ball's Hill Road), Dee family World War I letters, Charles Darling's photographs of Concord gardens, and the West Concord Union Church and its predecessors. In conjunction with a celebration by the Library Corporation of Louisa May Alcott's *Flower Fables* (160 years old in 2015), Leslie Wilson prepared a small exhibition in the lobby showcase.

As always, the collections expanded through both gift and purchase this year. A number of gifts were added, among them: an 1864 deed of property from Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar to John Cheney by Roberta Bograd; four charming Italian sketchbooks of Ada Shepard (governess to the Hawthorne children) by Susan Abele; an 1898 military photograph and an Edward Waldo Emerson painting and artist's palette by Lawrence Roberts; records and materials relating to the Concord Minute Men by John Dennis; a Mavis Viles painting of the Concord Band by Linda Bond and family in memory of Donald and Kathryn Bond; Albert Brisbane's *A Concise Exposition of the Doctrine of Association* (1843) by Joel Myerson and Mark Stirling in memory of Sterling Delano, who passed away in 2015; an N. C. Wyeth letter by Paula DiMare; a hand-drawn historical map of Concord by David Jacobs; a Seaver family Bible by Bill Seaver; a variety of ephemeral materials by Carol Ann Helsing Wolf; and further installments of ongoing donations by Lowell S. Smith, Joseph C. Wheeler, the Concord Band, and the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. Also, with the support of the Library Corporation, we made several significant purchases, including a collection of Safford family letters written between 1815 and 1844, an undated letter by Louisa May Alcott, and an 1852 Ralph Waldo Emerson letter to Robert Carter about editing a newspaper account of a Concord speech at the reception for Kossuth here.

Throughout the year, Leslie Wilson presented to a number of high school and college students: Calvin

College literature students; two groups of "Rivers and Revolutions" students from CCHS; a visiting Florida high school group; Northeastern University literature students; and many Concord Academy history and literature classes. Conni Manoli-Skocay prepared materials for the annual "Concord Citizens" project visit by Winsor School fifth graders and assisted the students as they gathered information; she also worked with Concord Academy classes. In addition, Leslie Wilson spoke to the 2015 Concord History and Guides class (offered through CCACE); about early Concord Thoreauvian and photographer Alfred Winslow Hosmer to members of the Thoreau Society in Concord for the 2015 Annual Gathering; and on the lives of nineteenth-century Concord women (a presentation based on a collection of Prichard family papers) as part of the CCACE/Concord Historical Collaborative program series "Through the Eyes of Women." In June, Leslie Wilson presented Herbert Wendell Gleason's slide show "Thoreau Country" at the Bolton Public Library as part of a program series sponsored by Freedom's Way.

Special Collections served as a host site for the Summer NEH-funded teachers' seminar for community college and four-year college teachers (subject: Boston, Concord, and reform in the age of Emerson and Thoreau). Leslie Wilson talked to the full group of twenty-five participants for two hours. Organized and managed by Dr. Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, the seminar provided opportunity for participants and instructors to do in-depth research in Special Collections over a two-week period.

In September, the Department sponsored a slide lecture by journalist and poet James Schlett, author of *A Not Too Greatly Changed Eden: The Story of the Philosophers' Camp in the Adirondacks* (2015). William J. Stillman's painting "Philosophers' Camp in the Adirondacks" (part of the CFPL Art Collection) formed a focus of the presentation.

Joel Myerson (Carolina Distinguished Professor of American Literature, Emeritus, University of South Carolina) and Leslie Wilson completed the manuscript for an iconography of all known lifetime images (photographic and artistic) of Ralph Waldo Emerson and are now looking for a publisher for their book.

The Department hosted five interns from the archival degree program at Simmons College and benefited from the contributions of time and talent by four volunteers (Reed Anthony, Barbara Ewen, Carol Gannon, and Jim Stoessel).

Funded by the Library Corporation, Project Archivist Janaya Kizzie completed the processing and preparation of an extensive finding aid for the First Parish in Concord records ([http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Fin\\_Aids/FPC.htm](http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Fin_Aids/FPC.htm)). In the spring, the Corporation made a second appropriation for Janaya's work on additional processing and digital projects, including a Concord postcard project.

Departmental staff with the aid of interns also processed a number of smaller collections throughout the year, and Bob Hall mounted their completed finding aids on [concordlibrary.org](http://concordlibrary.org). Among the newly-processed collections: Robert Dale Richardson, Jr. papers; Ruth Robinson Wheeler college papers; Michael J. Dee-Edward D. Dee letters; Trinitarian Congregational Church records; Belknap House records; Wood family papers.

Bob Hall created approximately fifty catalog records for individual items and collections (accessible through the database of the Minuteman Library Network and OCLC). Conni Manoli-Skocay physically processed cataloged additions to the Concord Pamphlet Collection.

The Department arranged two rounds of interviews for the Concord Oral History Program, including interviewees Tim and Becky Blodgett, Court Booth, Peggy Brace, Sarah and Win Hindle, Kristina Joyce, Mary Lawrence, Rebecca Purcell, Russell Robb, III, Martha and Shirley Rohan, and Barbara Wheeler. Bob Hall has mounted the transcripts and photographic and audio products of the spring round of interviews on [concordlibrary.org](http://concordlibrary.org) and will soon mount the products of the fall round.

We hosted several meetings of the Concord Historical Collaborative this year. Leslie Wilson and Lis Adams, Director of Education at Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, served as co-chairs of the group.

We submitted a third batch of transcribed Revolutionary-era Concord Town records for scanning through

Digital Commonwealth. These materials will soon be available on the library's website as well as on Digital Commonwealth and the Internet Archive.

The art jury for the library gallery met in Special Collections once this year. Conni Manoli-Skocay organized and facilitated the jury and served as liaison for artists submitting work and those selected to show in the gallery.

#### TECH 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, 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 Interest Groups and/or Working Groups and attend meetings to participate in discussions or provide leadership to working 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.

A total of 11,000+ books, music and spoken CDs, DVDs and eBooks/audiobooks were ordered, received, cataloged, entered, processed and added to the library collections and Minuteman online catalog. New books and spoken CDs are uploaded to library website for display right before they become available for circulation. A recent accomplishment includes the automation of magazine receiving and check-in procedures for integration with the library catalog.

CFPL continued to offer many computer classes in the past year. A total of 30 classes were offered at the Main Library. The topics ranged from how to download/stream library eBooks, eMagazines, and movies to how to use Goggle Mail, Google Calendar and Google Docs. Additional classes covered how to use Facebook and Sierra, the new Minuteman online catalog. We also started offering Drop-In Technology

Help sessions in the Main Library's lobby to meet the needs of those unable to attend classes or with other technology/mobile device related questions. A total of 25 drop-in sessions were offered between April and December with 50 patrons utilizing this service. We also offered numerous one-on-one demos/classes to individuals by appointment, and provided tech support/assistance to patrons using library computers, Wi-Fi access and other technologies on a daily basis.

The Technical Services Department continues to enhance technologies to meet the needs of library users. We installed a Wi-Fi printer at the Fowler Branch so that Fowler Wi-Fi users can also print from their laptops/devices directly to the Wi-Fi printer (similar to the Main Library). A color laser jet printer was installed for Fowler Branch patrons and a BookScan station will be installed at that location in early 2016.

A 3M self-checkout kiosk was added to the Main Library in May. The new 3M kiosk is faster and offers features such as Recommended Reads (based on the titles being checked out) and promotional slideshows for library events on the right side of the screen. Based on its popularity, an identical 3M kiosk was installed at the Fowler Branch in early December.

The Library began two new projects - a website redesign and a new logo design. We participated in the website RFP process and in collaboration with our library colleagues are currently working with the chosen web designer on the details. A new website is expected to be complete in 2016.

The library's telephone system received a VoIP upgrade recently as a part of the town-wide phone system upgrade. An intercom telephone will be installed in the second floor stacks and the third floor stacks to allow patrons to call Reference or Circulation Desk for assistance while in the stacks.

We are appreciative of the Town IT Department for their responsiveness and support to library technology needs in the past year. We also want to thank wholeheartedly our long-time volunteer Elaine Adams for her dedication and hard work.

## CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION



*Standing from left: Jeff Adams, Mario Favorito, Fred Lovejoy, Sandy Smith, Rick Briggs. Seated from left: Sally Schnitzer, Sherry Litwack, Di Clymer. Not pictured: Jerry Ward.*

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 maintain and protect the Library buildings and grounds – the Main Library in Concord Center and the Fowler Branch in West Concord – and to preserve and develop the Special Collections. In FY14-FY15 the Corporation provided over \$600,000 to the Library, including nearly \$128,000 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.

Two 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 and 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 space, and special collections. We have a preliminary architectural and financial plan and are testing the feasibility of making 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.

The William Munroe Special Collections continues to be an outstanding resource for researchers from around the world and the community. Last winter we continued the exhibition and related programs for, “This Man Grew According to the Need”: Concord and Abraham Lincoln, to commemorate the national Civil War anniversary. In the spring we presented an exhibition and related children’s programs to celebrate the anniversary of Louisa May Alcott’s first book, *Flower Fables*. In the fall we presented the exhibition and related programs for “The Reality Which Surrounds Us”: Thoreau’s Landscape in Survey, Text, and Image. We were pleased to see many new faces, as well as familiar ones, at these events. There were significant gifts to the Collections, including photos, deeds, working papers, and art, relating to R.W. Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, the Minute Men, and the Concord Band, among other topics related to the Collections. Purchased acquisitions included letters relating to the Barrett family, L.M. Alcott, and R.W. Emerson. One of the most significant projects was the processing of our large collections of First Parish in Concord records. To learn more about these acquisitions, finding aids, and our Special Collections, click 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, Edward Pilioli, and Siena Yerby.

This past year has been another busy and productive one for the Library. 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.

## FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor Curran, President  
Anne Irza-Leggat, Vice President  
Stephan & Faith Bader, Co-Treasurers  
Aiyana Currie, Clerk  
Jacqueline Barnard, Film Series  
Janet Kaminstein, Book Sorters Liaison  
Monika Kennedy, Membership  
Betsy Levinson, Publicity  
Lorraine Martin, Author Series  
E. Glenn Mitchell, Adult Programs  
Fiona Stevenson, Youth Programs & Community Outreach

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with more than 1,000 members. We are proud to support the work of the library to our community by funding purchases of books and media; by presenting programs for adults, teens, and children; by supporting Library staff professional development; and by providing donated books to area charities including Open Table and Concord Prison Outreach. We are able to do this through memberships, gifts and donations, and sales of donated books. A selection of highlights from 2015 follows.

### *Poetry Series*

Program Chair: E. Glenn Mitchell. The Friends’ Poetry at the Library Series sponsored five events, each followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing with light refreshments. The programs included award-winning Massachusetts poet Karina Borowicz and a Mother’s Day reading by Susannah Nevison, author of *Teratology*;

### *Film Series*

Program Chair: Jacqueline Barnard. The Friday Flicks at Fowler continued its successful screenings of acclaimed international and independent films, including “Moscow on the Hudson,” “Everything is Illuminated,” “Crimes and Misdemeanors,” “Love and Death,” and “Russian Ark.”

### *Music Program*

Committee Chair: Sally Sanford. The program included: Ann Bobo, Nancy Dimock, and Nina Ferrigno performing music of C.P.E. Bach; and The Janus Trio performing music by Lansky, Treuting, and Lang.



*The Friends of the Library presented a free concert by the Janus Trio in April.*

#### *Children's and Young Adult Programs*

Program organizer: Fiona Stevenson; Karen Ahearn, librarian. The Friends organized, supported, and sponsored many Children's and YA Programs for the Concord Free Public Library. They included: Monthly BookEaters Club for Grade 3; Monthly BookMarkers Club for Grades 4/5; Fowler Lego Challenge; Fowler Halloween Party; Gingerbread House Decorating; Monthly First Friday Flicks and Food for Middle Schoolers at the Main Library; Monthly Teen Friday Flicks'; Annual Teen Fall Fowler Film Event; Biannual CCHS Study Sundays; Summer YA Book Program with Reasons To Be Cheerful Ice Cream Making Field Trip. The Friends offer volunteer opportunities to teens throughout the year.

#### *Community Outreach*

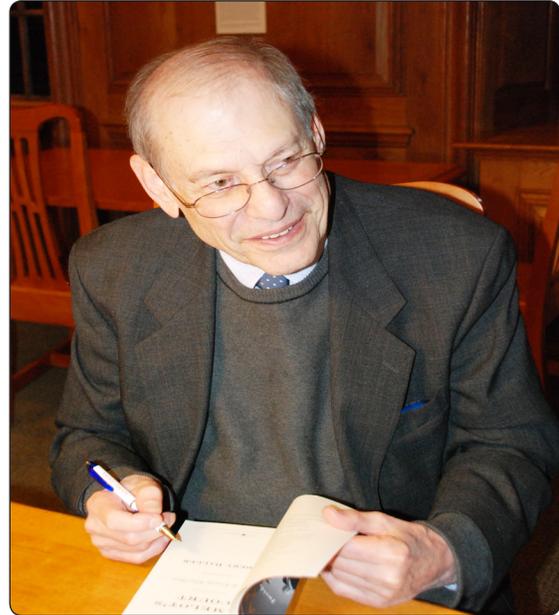
Program organizer: Fiona Stevenson. The Friends supply donated books to Open Table in Concord and Maynard for the children of their guests, as well as supplying books to the Concord Prison Outreach and supporting special classroom needs and teacher requests.

#### *Library Materials and Continuing Education*

The Friends provided adult and children's CDs and DVDs for the Main and Fowler libraries, museum passes, e-readers and e-content, and librarian continuing education.

#### *Ruth Ratner Miller Award*

Annually, the Friends honor an American historian. The Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History was presented to Stanford University Professor Robert Dallek, author of "Camelot's Court" and the bestselling "An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy."



*The Friends of the Library presented the 2015 Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History to Robert Dallek, who signed books for patrons after delivering his lecture.*

The Friends gifts and programs are funded primarily through memberships and sales of donated books. Online sales are managed by Empire Books and books are for sale every day on the Friends Book Carts at the Main Library and the Fowler Branch. More than half of Friends revenue comes from sales of donated books. Our June Book Sale raised a record-breaking \$21,000. The Holiday Sale in December raised more than \$8,700. Please save the date for our next book sale on Saturday, June 4, 2016 (rain date June 11).

To donate gently used books, please bring them to the reference desk at the Main Library, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. To join, the Friends please visit [www.cfplfriends.org](http://www.cfplfriends.org) or pick up a brochure at the Library. For those who love libraries and books, the Friends offer many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers sort donated books for sale; set up and staff

the book sales; handle publicity, marketing, membership, database management and finances for programs and events. To volunteer or learn more email [friends@concordlibrary.org](mailto:friends@concordlibrary.org) or follow the Friends on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Everyone is welcome!

## CONCORD CULTURAL COUNCIL

Janet Silver, Chair  
Patricia Bruttomesso  
Debra Canally  
Laurence Constable  
Victoria Mulligan  
Maggie Terris  
Tom Martin  
Alicia Cleary

The Concord Cultural Council (CCC), whose members are appointed by the Select Board, supports community cultural projects through its grant program. Funds are received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) whose mission is “to promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.” This year \$4,600 was received from the MCC. The Town budgeted an additional \$2,000 to enhance this fund, enabling the CCC to enrich its support of the many cultural projects requesting funding.

Individuals and organizations may apply to the CCC for funding for projects and presentations in music, dance, visual arts, poetry, literature, drama, humanities, and scientific interpretation for all age groups. Preference is given to applicants who live or work in Concord or who offer programs, projects, or presentations that specifically benefit Concord.

Information about applying for FY16 grants was publicized in the *Concord Journal* and on the MCC website: [www.mass-culture.org/Concord](http://www.mass-culture.org/Concord).

Guidelines and applications were available at the Town House and both locations of the Concord Free Public Library. The application deadline for FY16 was October 14, 2015. Public meetings were held on September 29, October 27, November 10, December 8, and on January 12, 2016. Applications were reviewed and voted on in accordance with both State and Local guidelines.

The Council chose to fund the following 13 proposals for FY16:

- Acton Community Chorus
- Carlisle Chamber Orchestra
- Concord Band Association
- Concord Orchestra
- Contemporary Arts International
- Discovery Museum
- Electa Kane Tritsch (Tracks in Time, Season III)
- Fruitlands Museum
- Indian Hill Music, Inc.
- Kammerwerke Double Quintet
- Sunanda Sahay, Essence of India
- The Umbrella Community Arts Center
- The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden

Additional information on the CCC grant program is available at [www.mass-culture.org/Concord](http://www.mass-culture.org/Concord).

## RECREATION COMMISSION

Susanne Jarnryd, Chair  
Paul Grasso  
Peter Hunter  
Jim Richardson  
Peter Ward

The Town continues to reap the benefits of continuous improvements over the past 30 plus years. In 1987, the Recreation Department moved to the rehabilitated Hunt Recreation Center, located at 90 Stow Street near Concord Center. Many of the facilities under Recreation management have undergone improvements or additions over this time period. A new outdoor pool was constructed at Emerson Playground and improvements were made to the ball fields. The old cinder track was replaced by a new 8 lane track facility where Concord Carlisle High School currently hosts track meets. Underground irrigation was installed at both the Rideout and Emerson fields to keep the fields green, lush and usable during the hot dry summer months. Cushing Field was created at the Peabody Middle School for use by both middle school students and the Town's youth sports groups. In 2006 the Beede Swim and Fitness Center was opened, offering swimming and fitness opportunities to Concord and surrounding communities. The Recreation Department was also instrumental in creating multiple athletic fields including two lighted Turf fields at

Concord Carlisle High School for shared use between the high school and the community.

Concord was the first recreation department in the State to recognize the need to care for children before and after school.

In 1981 the Before School and After School programs were established and continue to operate successfully. The Department also established a preschool in 1981 which became licensed by the Office for Children (now the Department of Early Education and Care) in 1986. These child care programs continue to be the mainstay of the department.

All of the Recreation Department's programs and services, including the Beede Swim & Fitness Center, continue to operate on a user-fee basis, without tax dollars. The success of these programs and services enabled the Recreation Department to provide over \$200,000 in financial support to Concord families participating in the summer day camp, school age child care programs and as members of the Beede Swim and Fitness Center.

#### *Friends and Partners*

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Lamont Family for their continued support. Their generous donation to the Touch A Truck event helped to sponsor a dozen children, offering the opportunity to have a phenomenal active summer in our Summer Day Camp program. We would also like to thank Middlesex Savings Bank for their continued sponsorship of the Recreation Department's seasonal brochure which is mailed all residents of Concord and Carlisle in August and March.

Concord-Carlisle Community Chest is also a valued partner in providing scholarship funds for families participating in the summer programs. Concord Public Schools continues to support the METCO scholarships for the Summer at Alcott program providing Boston families a day camp experience. Thanks are offered to the following organizations/individuals for their support; the Silent Fund, Picnic in the Park and a special note of appreciation to Tim Gaudreau – Alcott Physical Education Director for his generous donation from proceeds of the Annual Turkey Trot.



*The Touch A Truck event held in 2015.*

#### *New Initiatives*

Through Article 52, The Town appropriated \$600,000 to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager, for the purpose of replacement, renovation, and other work related to the improvements of playing fields, courts and related recreation equipment and facilities at Rideout Playground inclusive of the 51 Laws Brook Road property. The Town of Concord and the Concord Recreation Department are in the process of planning the renovation and rehabilitation of the 51 Laws Brook Road and Rideout Recreation properties.

Currently, the project is in the developmental stage and site design is in the works. Public forums have been, and will continue to be, held during this process, allowing opportunities for community input. It is the goal of the Town to create a product that makes best use of the land and allotted funds, while simultaneously creating a location that presents recreational opportunities for all members of the community.

#### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

The Recreation Department provides programs, services and special events for a wide range of ages from preschool all the way through adulthood. Some major programs include school-age childcare, Concord Carousel Preschool, summer camps and clinics as well as youth basketball, youth skiing and tennis for all ages.



*Recreation Department staff group photo.*

Throughout the year, many special events take place. These include the Shamrock Ball in March and the Minuteman Classic Road Race on July 4. Middle School students enjoy special themed dances/parties as well as Game Nights at Hunt Recreation Center. These events are designed to provide a fun and safe environment. Proceeds for the special events help support summer camp scholarships.

The Department has some new and exciting offerings. “Parents Night Out” was offered to help parents have a night to shop, go out to dinner or just spend some time relaxing without the kids. Winter Wonderland is a new event planned for February and will feature ice skating, sleigh rides and much more fun. Bubble Soccer is coming in the spring and sure to be the talk of the Town.

The Hunt Recreation Center is the home to many of these programs. The Recreation Department runs programs at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 105 Everett Building, the Ripley Gym, the Beede Swim and Fitness Center and Emerson and Rideout Playgrounds.

The total revenue of the Recreation Services Division in FY15 was \$1,918,369.

#### *Maureen Taggart Award*

The 2015 award recipient was Edye Benedict. This award honors young adults who have given exemplary service to their community. The recipient receives a monetary award as well as designating a charity to receive a monetary contribution. This year’s charity was AmeriCares in Stamford, CT.

#### *Beede Swim & Fitness Center*

Opened in 2006, the Center celebrated its 9th year of operation in April. Operating as an Enterprise Fund, the Center does not receive tax-funding and relies solely on membership and programming fees to achieve the status of self-support. The Center is open 100 hours per week, 50 weeks per year and is staffed with approximately 60 full-time and part-time employees. The Center is fully handicapped accessible.

Membership is comprised of approximately 2,800 Concord Residents and approximately 1,000 users from surrounding communities. Our memberships represent nearly 3,800 total members, taking into account spouses and other family members.

The Beede Center experienced 164,306 visits from residents Concord and surrounding communities using the facilities at the Center - an average of 13,691 visits per month - an average of 475 users per day.

The Beede Center continued to operate “in the black” for FY15 adding to the fund balance for the 9th year. For FY15, revenues were \$2,283,710 with expenses of \$2,159,452 resulting in a net income of \$124,258.

The Beede Center remains dedicated to its mission to provide the community with a first class option for health and fitness while operating on a self-supporting basis. The staff works diligently to contain costs and provide a high level of service. Swim and fitness programs are open to all members of the community. Beede members receive 40% discount on fitness and swim programs.

The Aquatics Center offers programming for all ages from infant swim lessons to adult swim programs including diving and a warm water therapy pool. The staff is fully certified for their specialty. The Department’s youth swim team, the Concord Otters, is a highly successful program serving over 175 youth between the ages of 4 to 18 and is managed by the aquatics staff. The Beede Center is host to the Concord Carlisle High School swim and dive team for both practices and home meets and also hosts their Health & Fitness Lifeguard Training classes.

The Fitness Center offers both cardio and strength equipment with highly skilled and fully certified trainers. The equipment is well maintained and re-

placed every three to four years as needed. There are always trainers on duty to assist members. The trainers also offer personal training for those members who prefer a one-on-one training session. Personal training became available to non-members, where previously only members could participate. Group exercise programs are held at the Hunt Recreation Center and 105 Everett Street Studios. Members of the Beede Center receive a 40% discount on those classes.

The Beede Center HVAC project was completed. The project included replacement of the existing dehumidification system with two new static plate dehumidification systems, replacement of three existing conventional boilers with three new high-efficiency condensing domestic water heaters, and three high-efficiency condensing boilers for pool water heating. Improvements included increased storage tank capacity to satisfy the demand for hot water during heavy usage, a direct digital automatic temperature control system and weather station to tie together the controls for the dehumidification, hot water, rooftop HVAC units and lighting systems.

The Beede Center is currently working on the second phase of its lighting project. The first phase was completed in 2013. An agreement was made with the Regional School District and the CCHS Building Committee to coordinate installation of the Beede Center's new exterior lighting fixtures with the new high school. All of the exterior fixtures will be the same design, finish and light color temperature, creating a unified look to the campus. The project includes 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 will be LED to both optimize energy consumption and reduce costs. Installation will be completed in 2016.

In September of 2014, the Department provided to its customers the ability to register online for programs and purchase or renew memberships. A kiosk was installed in the main entrance of the Beede Center providing customers with the opportunity to register online during their workout visits. The addition of the on-line registration option has been very successful as on-line registrations now make up 50% of our total program registrations.

## PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK JULY 4TH 2015

Frank Okurowski, Co-Chair  
Marie Foley, Co-Chair & Booths  
Sandra Folk, Treasurer  
Tina Browne, Secretary  
Karen Ahearn, Entertainment  
Dot Higgins, Publicity  
Irme Doane, Picnic Backers  
Ann Lang, Children's Parade  
Anne Edgar, Hot Air Balloon  
Michael Rudd, Volunteer for PA System & Posters

The annual Picnic-in-the-Park enjoyed good weather on the 4th, a cloudy day with little wind. The RE-MAX Hot Air Balloon was able to fly this year, and Picnic attendees were able to get a ride in the Balloon. Roger Tincknell folksinger, Southern Rail Bluegrass band, the Circus Minimus, and the grand finale by the Concord Band provided entertainment. A new event was the Roaming Railroad train that transported Picnic attendees around Emerson Field. In addition, the children's bicycle, tricycle and doll carriage parade was well attended.



*The Roaming Railroad touring the field at the Picnic in the Park.*

The Picnic Committee organizes and obtains donations for the event, but it would not be possible to hold it without the invaluable assistance of the town of Concord. Peter Flynn, Mick Hone and Marc Reardon from the Concord Public Works and Highway Departments provided valuable assistance for the booths setup and cleanup. The Concord Light Department set up the electric power; the Concord Fire Department provided standby safety services, a fire pump truck display, and the popular Fire House; the Concord Police Department provided security ser-

vices, the radar baseball toss, the emergency van and a Concord Police motorcycle. Rebecca Purcell and Rob Beyer organized the Field Games, and Bruce Barker was the Master of Ceremonies for the parade, entertainment and general announcements.



*The Hot Air Balloon takes off at the Picnic in the Park.*

The following corporate sponsors and private donors provided funds for the entertainment: Middlesex Savings Bank, Cambridge Trust Company, Salem Five Bank, McWalter Volunteer Insurance, Concord Lumber Company, Dunkin Donuts of Concord, Barrett-Sotheby's Real Estate, and Charles and Gloria Clough. The Concord Bookshop and *Concord Journal* provided advertising support. Private citizen donor contributions, and additional donations from local businesses, go to cover operational expenses. The proceeds from the Hot Air Balloon ride enabled a donation of \$700 to be made to the Concord Recreation Dept. The Picnic Committee encourages the citizens of Concord to support Picnic in the Park in terms of financial contributions and volunteer effort, on the committee or during the day of the event.

### **PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kathleen Finigan Stone, Co-Chair  
 John Arena, Co-Chair  
 Edward Murray  
 Robert Norton

The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing several celebrations sponsored by the

Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2015 included: Honored Citizen Ceremony on March 22; Meriam's Corner Exercise on April 11; Dawn Salute on April 19; Patriots' Day Parade on April 20; Memorial Day Ceremonies on May 25; and Veterans' Day Flag Retirement Ceremony on November 11.

### **2015 HONORED CITIZEN**

Each year, since 1962, Concord has acknowledged the outstanding efforts of some very dedicated citizens at the Honored Citizen Celebration. Nancy Crowley was recognized as Honored Citizen for her long-term commitment to volunteering and community service. Nancy has served on many Town committees including the Board of Health, Personnel Board and Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee. In addition, she has worked tirelessly with several local organizations including the Minute Man Arc; Concord Lions Club and the Concord Business Partnership. A grateful community packed the Town House to celebrate Nancy's service and accomplishments on March 22!



*2015 Honored Citizen Nancy Crowley.*

### **MERIAM'S CORNER CEREMONY**

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.



*Meriam's Corner.*

### 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.



*Participating in the Dawn Salute was the Fife and Drum Corps of the 4th Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment. More famously known by its nickname, the "Old Guard" is the oldest active-duty infantry regiment of the U.S. Army, serving the United States since 1784.*

### 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 dignitaries from neighboring towns, the State, the nation and several foreign countries with ties to Concord. 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.



*The Singing Doughboys march through Concord Center accompanied by an American Red Cross nurse. At the Parade's reviewing stand, the Singing Doughboys delivered a beautiful rendition of "The Rose of No Man's Land" and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic".*

### 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 Honor was read at Monument Square. Commemorative wreaths were placed at both West Concord locations as well as several monuments in the Square. The Concord Independent Battery fired multiple times throughout the morning and displayed one of their two historic cannons in Concord Center for all to view and appreciate.

Observers were reminded of former President Ronald Reagan's 1985 Vietnam Veterans' Memorial speech in which he spoke of the special sadness that accompanies the death of any service man or woman. We owe these "youngsters" a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay, but can remember.

**VETERANS' DAY FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY**

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 years, this ceremony has been conducted to remedy this situation.



*2015 Veterans' Day Flag Retirement Ceremony.*

The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee is grateful to the many people and organizations who helped make 2015 such a successful year! These especially include Town and State officials, various Town departments especially the Fire, Police and Public Works Departments, Parade Marshal USAF Lt. Colonel Gregory Mueller, Honored Citizen Nancy Crowley, Concord Veterans, Concord Minutemen, Con-

cord Independent Battery, Middlesex County 4H Fife & Drum Corps, Concord Girl and Boy/Cub Scouts, CCHS music volunteers, Fr. Austin Fleming of Holy Family Parish and Reverend John Lombard of Trinitarian Congregational Church and all of the many other people and organizations who participated in, supported or attended events. Thank you, Concord, for your continuing support!



**CONCORD-CARLISLE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Ronni Olitsky & Rob Morrison, Co-Chairs  
 Libby Kurten, Treasurer  
 Louisa Paushter, Secretary  
 Lorell Grifford, Webmaster

Formally established in 1979 as a 501(c)(3), the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council has a membership of approximately 675 households in the Concord-Carlisle community, with an Executive Board that meets monthly.

The first event of the year was the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration held at the Fenn School. Performers were the Fenn Treble Chorus, the Willard Fifth Grade Chorus, the Boston Children's Choir, the eHoly Tabernacle Brotherhood Choir from Boston and slam poet Lisa Lee, and acapella singer Carl Alleyne. The groups sang separately and together, their powerful voices joining the audience to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy.

In April, the Council coordinated the Annual Holocaust Memorial on behalf of the Concord Select Board. The program featured Holocaust survivor, Pedro Lilienfeld, from Lexington who traced the harrowing tale of survival as his family fled the rise of Na-

zism totalitarianism in Germany, Vichy France and Spain before settling in Ecuador in 1942 and later in the United States.

Our annual Human Rights Day Breakfast was held on December 7 at Trinitarian Congregational Church and featured John Sharon, who was born with Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita, a rare condition that limits muscle and bone growth in the extremities. Mr. Sharon spoke about the challenges of overcoming physical limitations and expectations of society. Mr. Sharon has become a national advocate for people with disabilities and is currently the head of the social studies department at the Fenn School.

In addition to the above activities, the Council has been involved in working with local residents about rights violations, hate crimes, and issues of discrimination. We are not professional mediators, but act as a resource for the community in finding mediators, sensitivity training, legal advice, etc. We are in close touch with the Police Department, the schools and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. We take no action without thoughtful consideration and discussion with those victimized, as well as the advice of police and other concerned groups.

We can be reached by email through our website [www.cchumanrights.org](http://www.cchumanrights.org) or through the Police Department.

### **CONCORD-SAN MARCOS SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE**

Steven B. Bloomfield, Chair  
Shirley Andrews, Secretary  
Fiona Nauseda, Secretary  
Nancy Kerr, Treasurer  
*Steering Committee*  
Lisa Gutwillig  
Sue Kurker  
Ed Wholihan  
*Advisers*  
Sam Alexander  
Al Armenti  
Al Minton

While wars were raging in Central America in the mid-1980s, citizens of Concord, led by Al Armenti and Gene Sheftelman, true humanitarians and witnesses to peace and advocates for social justice, invented the idea of forming a Sister-Cities committee

in Concord, to become a member of the Washington, DC-based Sister Cities International. The Committee's mission would be to encourage peace and mutual understanding, and socioeconomic development, through programs of cultural exchange and economic assistance carried out in a spirit of cooperation by the people of the Town of Concord and a town in Central America. After a small delegation from Concord visited the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, DC, San Marcos in the state of Carazo, in Nicaragua, was soon chosen as Concord's partner. Before too long, by vote of Town Meeting in 1986, with a reaffirmation of its value and importance by Town Meeting in 1987, the Concord-San Marcos Sister Cities Committee was established.

Over nearly 30 years, meeting on a monthly basis in Concordians' homes, a committee of dedicated individuals volunteered their time and their hearts in three significant areas of partnership:

#### 1. Providing material aid:

- A fully equipped dental clinic
- A pickup truck converted into a medical vehicle
- Medicines and medical supplies - some contributed by Emerson Hospital - including many hundreds of reading glasses
- School furniture, including re-purposed furniture from the old Willard School
- Computer hardware and software, some donated by the Concord Public Schools
- Sports equipment
- Clothing

2. Donating funds - tens of thousands of dollars were contributed by dozens of generous Concordians, and were raised through yard sales and countless dances run with great dedication by Sam and Jane Alexander at the Concord Scout House - for:

- The improvement of San Marcos recreational facilities
- The provision of countless scholarships to young children so they could purchase uniforms, educational supplies, and transportation services and access to schooling

- The construction of a well in an outlying rural community of the municipality, El Uval, where clean water had never been accessible
- The capitalization of a micro-lending bank with \$27,000, a fund that began circulating in 1996 to encourage small enterprise and improve families' incomes

### 3. People-to-people visits:

- Individual and group delegations from Concord began traveling to San Marcos in the 1980s, and Concord had the pleasure of hosting visiting San Marqueños at the beginning of the relationship in the mid-80s and again to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the relationship.
- Several Concord residents also lived in San Marcos for extended periods of time, including, most memorably, Megan Sandel and Cedric Bien, both of whom consequently pursued medical professions oriented to serving the dispossessed.
- Large groups of Concord young people traveled to San Marcos, including: a community-service visit by the youth group, 40 strong, of the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Concord in 2005; sports-and-service trips in 2008 and 2010; a trip by Concord Carlisle High School Spanish-language students for language learning, cultural immersion, and service, also in 2010; and a third sports-and-service trip in 2012.

However, over the last three years the partnership began to fray. An apparent paradox occurred: with the idea of ensuring the viability of a continuing relationship over a long future, after years of concern over a "personalistic" rather than more formal institutional approaches to funding and implementing projects, the Concord Sister-Cities Committee urged the formation in San Marcos of a small, private not-for profit legal entity that would receive and disburse funds as well as initiate ideas for new activities. As the institution, FUNDISMAR, was being born, internal conflicts arose in San Marcos over its institutional leadership and the appropriation of Sister Cities funds already residing in San Marcos. Consequently, the long-time partnership, long held in high esteem, withered.

As a result, after much reflection, and with great sadness, but with a sense of responsibility to the Town, the Concord side of the Concord-San Marcos Sister Cities relationship asked the Select Board at its meeting on November 2, 2015, to recognize the dissolution of the Committee and to offer the balance of the committee's funds, some \$1,200, to the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council. The Select Board unanimously supported these proposals. The Committee simultaneously communicated news of the termination to its partners in San Marcos, a result that came after a few years of foreshadowing and discussing with them this likely end.

## CONCORD-NANAE NETWORK

Tom Curtin, Chair  
 Junko Kargula  
 Nancy McJennett  
 David Nurenberg

It is gratifying to know that Concord has just completed its twenty-third year of friendship and eighteenth year as a sister city with Nanae.

In August, David McLean Shoup finished his second year as Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in Nanae. He has taught in numerous elementary and junior high school classrooms, greatly endearing himself to the students, teachers, and parents in Nanae.

David has been replaced by Ben Lee. He had an excellent orientation from his predecessors and is fully engaged in his classroom activities.

In October, Chris Howell, University of Massachusetts 2014, finished his first year as Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) in Nanae. His work in the Nanae Town Office includes teaching adult education English classes and participating in community events. He accompanied the October Nanae delegation to Concord and did a great job overseeing the students and translating on several occasions.

Many Concordians have been to Nanae over the years, but mostly students and teachers. This June a delegation of twenty adults went to Nanae, including three Select Board members and members of other Town committees. Nanae welcomed them with a community potluck that included taiko drumming and traditional dance and music. Tours were made of

local farms, the new Shinkansen and fire stations, a state-of-the-art hydroponic farm, and many tourist sites such as the Onuma lakes. A highlight was a conference about agriculture with many Nanae officials.

Nanae Mayor Nakamiya, Town Council Chair Sakata, and International Section member Emi Kimura came to Boston to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Massachusetts Hokkaido Sister State Relationship at the State House on October 19. They came to Concord for two days and were greeted warmly by both new and old friends.



*Concord Visitors in Nanae, Japan.*

This year's annual Nanae October delegation to Concord included six adults and eight students. They had home stays, visited the North Bridge and Orchard House, toured Boston and Cambridge, and attended the annual Concord Nanae Friendship event. Students enjoyed attending classes at CCHS, joining a Sci Fi Club meeting, and participating in CCTV and CCHS Radio Station productions. Farming was the main theme of the adults' itinerary. Both the adults and students enjoyed home stays with Concordians.

As 2015 was the 25th Anniversary of the Massachusetts Hokkaido Sister State Relationship, a "Hokkaido Pioneers" concert was held at CCHS on November 1 that featured the Concord-Carlisle High School Concert Band, the Longmeadow High School Lyrics, and Kunitachi Boston.

## CCTV, INC.



500 Walden Street  
Concord, MA 01742  
978-369-5038

[www.concordtv.org](http://www.concordtv.org) [www.carlisle.tv.org](http://www.carlisle.tv.org)

~Communication, Collaboration, Community~

Tamarah Green, Executive Director  
Kester Krueger, Education and Outreach Manager  
Sam Krueger, Production Manager  
Sue Merlino, Studio Manager

*Directors*

Marilyn Cugini, President  
Heather Bout  
Stanly Black  
John Gorecki  
Jim Leahy  
Sid Levin  
Chuck Palmer  
Carmin Reiss  
Neville Webb

CCTV is 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. Major services include programming on Channels 8, 9 and 99, devoted to Public, Government and Education programming respectively.

Our mission has always been to give local residents, students and people who work in Concord and Carlisle the resources to express their opinions, share their talents or communicate an idea. CCTV is a membership-based organization, which means the future of this media center is truly in the hands of the people who join. More importantly, it is the people who join in that matter.

2015 was quite the year for CCTV. It was a year of change, a year of growth, a year we got a new studio.

We now boast a fully upgraded high definition studio with new HD cameras, a digital switcher and new computers equipped with digital editing stations.

With all of the new equipment, we spent a considerable amount of time bringing our more seasoned producers up to speed as well as training new producers. That's because part of the CCTV mission is to empower our members by teaching them skills in video, television production and related computer technology so that they may create original programming. And do they ever! We are extremely fortunate to have so many active, engaged producers who, through their programs, highlight our community, educate our citizens and keep us informed and engaged. Community events, government meetings, music and lectures abounded.

Thanks largely to increased student and faculty participation, CCTV continues to provide the Concord community with quality educational and curricula based programming. Our educational programs give unique technical training to our young people and helps build students' self-esteem and confidence in their own skills, while also inspiring creativity and imagination. Students were involved in numerous productions this year, including school concerts, plays, and public access programs. This past June, CCTV saw 15 of our students, who had been with us all four years of their high school careers, graduate. A significant number went on to pursue a college degree in communications or video production.

All our training seems to be paying off: between our three channels, we cablecast over 4,000 hours of original programming. New programs included Canine Confidential with host Judy Bernard, Expanded Education with Court Booth, Joy of Life, a documentary on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and so much more.

Due to our expanded streaming over the internet, our three channels can be viewed by anyone. Never again will anyone have to miss a Select Board Meeting, as long as they have access to a computer and Internet connection. By logging onto CCTV's website ([www.concordtv.org](http://www.concordtv.org)), anyone - near or far - can

watch CCTV live with just one click. And so many of you have: in 2015, CCTV's website had almost 3,000 unique visitors where people viewed everything from municipal meetings to lectures, political forums and more.

CCTV remains committed to the use of our cable access facilities and channels to improve civic participation. We broadcast gavel-to-gavel coverage of Town Meeting, the Select Board and School Committee meetings, and recently started covering the Finance Committee. In addition, we were grateful to have several municipal leaders such as the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the High School Principal among others give our viewers an in-depth look at what they do and offer critical information to those they serve through these programs.



*A CCTV Volunteer Directs a Studio Production.*

In FY15, Comcast franchise fees totaled \$649,305.74 with operating expenses totaling \$443,550. Over the next 10 years CCTV will invest upwards of \$315,000 of its income from cable revenues to support Concord and Carlisle's growing Community Media Center. This investment has begun, not only in the studio area itself, but will continue outside of our four walls with new field equipment and upgrades to the broadcast equipment in the Select Board meeting room.

CCTV invites all residents to join their community television project. Come in and learn how to operate a camera, edit a program, and share the fascinating activities of Concord and Carlisle with an enthusiastic and interested audience.

For more information, a membership form, and to volunteer, please visit our website, email [manager@concordtv.org](mailto:manager@concordtv.org), or call the station at 978-369-5038.

As we move forward into 2016, CCTV will be announcing even more exciting changes and offering more classes for all members to keep up with the digital times.

As we continue to grow and welcome new members to our CCTV community, we thank everyone who helped make 2015 a success. We thank you for your time, creativity, generosity and commitment. Most of all, we thank you for using CCTV to make Concord a better place to live.

## THOREAU FARM TRUST

Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau  
P.O. Box 454, Concord, MA 01742  
978.451.0300

[www.thoreaufarm.org](http://www.thoreaufarm.org)  
[info@thoreaufarm.org](mailto:info@thoreaufarm.org)

Ken Lizotte, President  
Nancy McJennett, Vice President  
Molly Eberle, Treasurer  
Debbie Bier, Director  
Courtland Booth, Director  
Lawrence Buell, Director  
Brian Donahue, Director  
Dick Walton, Director  
Joe Wheeler, Director  
Robert Pinsky, Honorary Chair  
Bill McKibben, Honorary Director  
Margaret Carroll-Bergman, Executive Director

Thoreau Farm Trust, a nonprofit organization, serves as steward of the Henry David Thoreau birthplace at 341 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 responsibilities are as relevant today in the 21st century as

they were during his lifetime. And so we view his birthplace is a source of inspiration for living deliberately, practicing simplicity, and exploring new ideas for positive change.



*Board members Ken Lizotte and Joe Wheeler welcome new Executive Director Margaret Carroll-Bergman on the front steps of Thoreau Farm.*

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 2015, Thoreau Farm Trust continued its educational and programming and offered special evening programs with actors portraying Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau himself.

In addition, as participants in the Concord Solar Challenge, a Town-wide effort to increase the amount of solar power generated in Concord, we signed a contract with Solect Inc. to install a solar photovoltaic system in 2016 which will power 100% of our building's electric needs once the system is fully up and running. This installation is significant given Henry Thoreau's stature as an environmental pioneer and should result in an increase of educational, environmental, and economic benefits for the organization.

In addition, other achievements and developments in 2015 include:

- The hiring of a new executive director Margaret Carroll-Bergman who began work for us on September 15

- A comfortably furnished “writers studio” located in the Thoreau birthplace room available for rent by day, week or month; over a dozen writers took advantage of this resource in 2015
- Final payment of a longstanding capital improvements loan to Middlesex Bank
- Expert docents available for guided tours every Saturday from April through October, and by appointment (on other days and months)
- Continued transcendental insights from volunteer bloggers Sandy Stott and Corinne Smith posting entries on our blog “The Roost”
- Participation in Agricultural Day aka “Ag Day” in Concord center
- Support as needed for Gaining Ground’s one-day barn-raising event
- Hosting a Sunday picnic for attendees of the Thoreau Society’s Annual Gathering. This year’s theme: “Thoreau’s Sense of Place”
- Participation in a special collaboration of Thoreau-related organizations working to create a series of celebratory events in 2017, the year of Henry’s 200th birthday

As Henry Thoreau himself once said, “If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.” In that spirit, Thoreau Farm Trust continued its mission of solidifying the foundation in 2015 while planning new improvements on the castle itself.

## VETERANS’ SERVICES

Richard Krug  
Veterans’ Services Officer

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.



*Veterans’ Services Officer Richard Krug (left) during the Flag Retirement Ceremony on Veterans Day 2015.*

The Office of Veterans’ Services, located at 105 Everett Street, advocates and provides critical services to those who have worn the uniform and their loved ones. For decades, the Department of Veterans’ Services has been the leading advocate for veterans and their families in the Commonwealth. 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. However, we have tens of thousands of new veterans in the Commonwealth including 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 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](mailto:dkrug@concordma.gov). For information about services, events, and other veterans' organizations please visit Concord's web page at [http://concordma.gov/pages/Concord-MA\\_Veterans/index](http://concordma.gov/pages/Concord-MA_Veterans/index).

The following is a list of applications applied for or services requested from Concord Veterans' Services during the year 2015:

<b>2015 APPLICATIONS FOR VETERANS' SERVICES</b>	
<b>Prescription Benefits</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Death Benefits</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Housing Benefits</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Assisted Living</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Aid &amp; Attendance</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Chapter 115</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Clothing Donation</b>	<b>3</b>
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## REGISTRAR OF VETERANS' GRAVES

Harold Nichols,  
Registrar

There were 34 interments of United States Veterans in Concord cemeteries in 2015. The names of the Veterans, their respective wars, date of burial and places of burial are as follows:

<u>VETERAN'S NAME</u>	<u>PERIOD OF DUTY</u>	<u>INTERMENT DATE</u>	<u>CEMETERY</u>
Robert R. O'Connell	World War II	January 24, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
William S. Nichols	Korea	February 7, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Charles Craig	Korea	March 13, 2015	St. Bernard's
George A. Haynes	Korea	March 17, 2015	St. Bernard's
John J. Hickey	Korea	March 20, 2015	St. Bernard's
Dana R. Levine	Vietnam	April 10, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Edward T. Hughes Sr.	World War II, Korea	April 13, 2015	St. Bernard's
Joseph Arendt	Vietnam	April 28, 2015	St. Bernard's
Mortimer B. Hermel	World War II	May 6, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Walter F. Foley	Korea	May 7, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
James T. McMahon	Korea	May 9, 2015	St. Bernard's
John J. Casey Jr.	World War II	May 15, 2015	St. Bernard's
James A. Ford Jr.	Vietnam	May 16, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
David C. Cable	World War II	June 19, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Peter Mackay	World War II	June 24, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Arthur L. Benson	Korea	June 30, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Ulrich G. Von Dran Jr.	Korea	July 14, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Brooks Hoar	World War II	July 15, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Myrtle M. Kennedy	World War II	July 16, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
John E. Jones Jr.	Korea	July 25, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Robert Carmichael Sr.	Korea	August 5, 2015	St. Bernard's
Henry H. Hill Jr.	Korea	August 12, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Ralph E. Wesinger Sr.	Korea	August 29, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Francis D. Curran	Korea	September 9, 2015	St. Bernard's
Elinor M. Condon	World War II	September 16, 2015	St. Bernard's
Arcade G. Boivin	Vietnam	September 18, 2015	St. Bernard's
Gardner W. Hubbard	World War II	September 22, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Michele G. Lombardo	World War II	September 25, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Madeleine E. Venti	World War II	September 28, 2015	St. Bernard's
Alden T. Brown	World War II	October 16, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Terzo G. Sablone	World War II, Korea	October 26, 2015	St. Bernard's
Frank B. Counihan	World War II	October 31, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
David B. Arnold Jr.	World War II	November 1, 2015	Sleepy Hollow
Alfred Dentino Jr.	Korea	December 14, 2015	St. Bernard's