

along with MS Office 2010 applications.

- The Department played a key role in several library-wide initiatives – a key card access management system at the Main Library and preparations for the implementation of RFID, OverDrive downloadable eBooks and audio books, training demos for staff and the public, library web page development and online publications.
- The Minuteman Library Network selected the Concord Free Public Library Department to participate in a pilot project using our book vendor's online database for ordering in the hopes of expediting the book ordering process. The pilot project was successful and more Minuteman libraries will now adopt the new program.
- Our Book Conservator has trained numerous local high school students/volunteers to perform book repairs ranging from simple to the somewhat complex.
- We want to express our profound gratitude to all of our former and current high school students and adult volunteers for their talent, dedication and tireless work.

FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Claire Greene, President
Stephan & Faith Bader, Co-Treasurers
Karen Brown, Clerk and Fowler Liaison
Jacqueline Barnard, Film Series
Stefanie Cloutier, Publicity
Edith & Kenneth Hetling, Book Sales
Christine Lamb, Publicity
John Lynch and Janet Kaminstein, Book Sorters Liaisons
E. Glenn Mitchell, Adult Programs
Jane Torpie, Membership
Dianne Weiss, Film Series
Kerry Cronin, Library Liaison

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, a non-profit volunteer organization, supports the Library and promotes its vital role in our community.

The Friends sponsored Tour of Concord Libraries raised \$15,000 for e-readers and training for patrons and staff members to use databases and e-readers. 435 lucky ticket holders toured seven private libraries in Concord. Book mavens gawked at one resident's Pulitzer Prize, compared notes on favorite books, admired beloved books, exclaimed over shared tastes.

With more than 1,000 members and volunteers, the Friends fund library materials, performances and programs not otherwise provided for in the Library budget. Some highlights from 2011 follow.

Thursday author series



Ken Gloss, a renowned appraiser of books, spoke at the 2011 Thursday author series.

Also speaking in 2011: Concord resident and Brandeis economics professor Catherine Mann, NYT best-selling author Julia Glass and foreign war correspondent Anna Badkhen on her book, "Candy-wrapped Kalashnikovs and other war stories."

Music from the library

All four free concerts "sold out" very quickly and attracted a diverse audience. Each concert was extraordinary and all of the performers loved the performance space and the attentiveness of the audience.

Weekend poetry

The Weekend Poetry Series continued with its strong showing of quality poets, beginning with Joanna Klink in January, Betsy Sholl, the Poet Laureate of Maine, in February, followed by Moira Linehan and Mary Pinard in April and acclaimed poet Tony Hoagland in May.

A memorial reading in honor of poet June Beisch was held in August. Bill Coyle and Lisa Olstein read in November. December brought the lighter side of poetry with the group XJ Kennedy and the Light Brigade, performing their humorous poems.

Friday Flicks

The 2011 Friday Flicks temporarily relocated to the Main Library while renovations were completed at the Fowler Library. The well-attended film series included: *The Song of Sparrows* (Iran, 2008); *Floating Weeds* (Japan, 1959); and *Broken Wings* (Israel, 2002). A highlight was 7 Solos with a special appearance by featured musician, Wayne Hankin.

Library materials, children's programming, continuing education

In 2011, the Friends provided adult and children's CDs and DVDs for the Main and Fowler libraries, museum passes, e-readers and e-content, teen movies, summer lawn concerts, and librarian continuing education.

Annually, the Friends honor an American historian. In 2011, Pauline Maier received the Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History.

The Friends' gifts and programs are funded primarily through book sales and memberships. Books are for sale every day on the Friends' shelves the Main Library. The next book sale is Saturday, June 2, 2012 (rain date June 9).

More than half of Friends revenue came from sales of donated books. Some 20,000 books were offered for sale in June, raising more than \$18,000. The Holiday Book Sale in December raised more than \$8,000. To donate books, bring them to the reference desk at the Main Library, 9AM to 3PM. Monday through Saturday.

Friends memberships are tax deductible. To join, pick up a brochure at the Library or visit the Friends page at www.concordlibraryfriends.org.

If you love the Library, the Friends offer many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers sort donated books for sale; publicize, set up and staff the book sales; and handle publicity, marketing, membership, database management and finances. To volunteer or learn more, email friends@concordlibrary.org. or you can follow the Friends on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn as well as at www.concordlibraryfriends.org. Everyone is welcome.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

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 the Library buildings and grounds – the Main Library in Concord Center and Fowler Branch in West Concord –

and to preserve and grow the Special Collections. This year we were able to also financially support Library services with funds totaling over \$100,000.



*Library Corporation Board of Trustees
from left: Mario Favorito, Sandy Smith, Diana Clymer, Jeff
Adams, Sherry Litwack, Walter Birge, Fred Lovejoy
Not pictured: Rick Briggs, Sally Schmitzer*

A highlight of the year was the completion of the Fowler Branch renovation on-time and on-budget. The building re-opened in March and a Grand Opening was held in May. The building has been busy every day. The renovation preserves the intimacy of the original building while bringing the facility into the 21st century with state-of-the art technology, "green" systems, and accessibility. There is a Children's Room, Young Adult space, quiet study areas, collaborative working spaces, and a community meeting room. We thank the community and the Town for supporting this project! The building has also won a prestigious architectural award.

The William Munroe Special Collections continues to be an outstanding resource for researchers from around the world and the community. A highlight this year is the collaborative exhibition "Collecting Transcendentalism" with a display in the Art Gallery from our Collections and related lectures by scholars, curators, and book dealers.

As Trustees of the Williams Scholarship Fund, made possible by a bequest from Charles H. S. Williams, we continue to award grants to several students pursuing studies in the arts.

The 2nd annual Leslie Reidel Lecture for Young People featured award-winning author/illustrator Chris Van Allsburg. An enthusiastic audience attended despite the October snowstorm.