

HUMAN SERVICES

COUNCIL ON AGING



Council on Aging Committee seated from left: Jill Colpak, Kristina LeClaire, Pat LeVan, Katrina Henchman; Standing: Mary Ann Allen, Carol Barron, Chair; Mary Anne Mortenson, Director; Patricia Oliphant, William Ritchie.

COA STAFF

Mary Anne Mortenson, Director
Lori Kalinoski, Program Supervisor
Shirley Conradt, Administrative Assistant
Anne Stevens, Administrative Assistant
Patricia Boudrot, Office Assistant
Susan Hoole, Wellness Coordinator
Mary FitzPatrick, Outreach Coordinator
Ellen Sathe, Volunteer Coordinator
Virginia McCoubry, Program Coordinator
Eight van drivers
413 volunteers

According to the January 2008 Town Census, there are 3,871 Concord residents over the age of 60. This is 103 more than in the previous year and constitutes approximately 25.3% of the total population of Concord.

The mission of the Council on Aging is to promote a good quality of life for Concord's seniors 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 and intellectual well being. The COA staff is also available to help and advise younger Concordians on how to cope with the aging process in regard to family members and themselves.

COUNCIL ON AGING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Counseling and Social Services

The COA's motto is, "If it's about seniors, ask us!" Our knowledgeable staff prides itself in keeping up-to-date on the latest information that will be helpful to seniors and their families. Many services are available: consultation with the Director, a licensed social worker; a home visit for evaluation or advice from our Program Supervisor, Outreach Worker or S.H.I.N.E. counselor (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Seniors); and arranging for COA services that fit the situation (Friendly Visitor, Grocery Shopper, Transportation etc.) or referrals to other elder service agencies that offer viable options.

The COA worked very hard to maintain its excellent working relationships with the Police, Fire Department, Emerson Hospital Emergency Room, the Concord Housing Authority and local banks and businesses. As a result, these departments and organizations have become a major source of referrals to the COA of seniors in crisis. This year's survey of these referral sources showed that 83% of those surveyed felt that the COA's response was excellent and 17% rated the COA's response as very good. In regards to the outcome of those referrals, those surveyed felt that the COA brought the situation to an excellent end 72% of the time. 19% rated the COA's intervention as having a very good outcome and 9% fair.

COA TRANSPORTATION

The COA vans continue to provide door-to-door service for seniors. A van is on the road Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The van takes individuals to medical appointments, the grocery store, the hairdresser or the barbershop, the bank, COA-sponsored activities, special trips to shopping malls and to visit their friends. This service enables many Concord seniors to live more active and independent lives. There are currently eight, part-time drivers who are limited status employees of the town. During 2008 the COA provided 7,200 round trip rides.

WELLNESS AND FITNESS

The goal of the COA Wellness and Fitness programs is to help seniors lead active, healthy and independent lives.

These programs include:

- Flu Clinic - The COA, in cooperation with the Town Health Department and Emerson Home Care, made sure that 263 seniors received flu shots.
- Wellness Clinics – 1316 seniors received service at blood pressure, blood sugar testing, cholesterol testing, podiatry clinics and monthly educational programs.
- Senior Aerobics, Strength and Flexibility Training and Tai Chi classes were attended by over 181 seniors a total of 2735 times.
- The COA also added Yoga and an aerobic workout based on Karate.

COA VOLUNTEERS

413 COA volunteers provided 9161 hours of service for the Town. Using a standard worth per hour established by the Points of Light Foundation, the service provided by COA volunteers was worth \$165,356! Volunteers are vital to the day-to-day function of the COA. They serve on the COA and Friends of the Aging Boards, as staff for the gift shop, as office volunteers, as income tax and medical insurance counselors and they assist in too many other ways to mention.

SUPPORT FROM THE EOEIA FORMULA GRANT, COMMUNITY CHEST GIFT AND THE FRIENDS

The Formula Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides partial funding for COA Programs. The grant totaled \$25,207 and subsidized the following positions:

- Wellness Clinic Coordinator
- Outreach Coordinator
- Program Coordinator
- Mental Health Worker

This grant also allows a small amount for volunteer recruitment, training and recognition.

Gifts from the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest made it possible to retain the Volunteer Coordinator who is instrumental in making sure our 413 volunteers are trained and adequately supervised. During 2008 the Town supported another 8 hrs/wk for this position.

The Concord Friends of the Aging is a private non-profit organization that does fundraising in order to support the programs and activities of the COA. The Friends sponsored several functions for seniors, offered financial



support as they were able and are actively planning to purchase another COA van when it is needed.

HARVEY WHEELER COMMUNITY CENTER

The Harvey Wheeler Community Center serves as home for the Council on Aging and the Recreation Department's preschool and after school programs. However, it is also a true community center. The building was used during the evenings and on the weekends by over 14 different Town departments, 22 local not-for-profit groups and 8 private individuals. These groups include the Planning Department, Warner's Pond Stewardship Committee, Community Education, Community Chest, Youth Hockey, Restorative Justice, Concord Minutemen, Minuteman ARC, National Charity League, Concord Youth Theater and many more! In 2008 income from rent and donations for use of HWCC totals \$17,079.00.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR

Julia Crozier
Community Service Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator position was established in 2005. Funded by the Community Chest, the purpose of the less-than-20 hour a week position is to assist Concord and Carlisle residents in accessing information on a broad range of local, privately-funded and State services, including educational programs for youth and financial assistance programs. The position focuses predominantly on assisting Concord and Carlisle residents who are below the age of 60, and refers residents age 60 and above to Council on Aging for assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator continued to aid individuals and families in accessing needed services on a variety of fronts. 190 referrals were made over the year, and included referrals to financial assistance programs, legal services, addiction support services, parenting support, after-school and camp programs and counseling services. Though overall rate of requests for referrals dropped slightly, from 200 in 2007, to 190 in 2008, Community Services experienced a slight increase in first-time requests for referrals and assistance; 57 individuals and families were new to Community Services in 2008, compared with 50 families in 2007. In addition, requests for assistance in accessing fuel assistance programs rose dramatically in 2008, to 60 individuals and families, compared to 16 individuals and families in 2007.

The Community Services Coordinator also worked collaboratively with the Town Manager and Selectmen's Office, Department of Public Health, Council on Aging, Fire, Police Departments, Concord Light Plant and Clergy Laity Group in implementing Concord Cares, a program that provides emergency and non-emergency fuel assistance and weatherization to Concord residents. Within the Concord Cares program, the Community Services Coordinator is now a point of contact for those Concord residents whose higher income may have disqualified them for other forms of fuel assistance in the past. The Community Services Coordinator continues to work closely with staff at Council on Aging, and to advertise the program to any Concord residents in need of this form of assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator works collaboratively with Town Departments such as Council on Aging, Police Department, Concord Public Schools and Department of Public Health to provide outreach to residents. By continuing to make contact with various Town departments, and advertising the position more broadly, more residents can be made aware that assistance is available. To further this outreach effort, the Community Services Coordinator has begun bi-weekly visits to Open Table, a community meal held in Concord, making contact with challenged Concord individuals and families and communicating pertinent information regarding various community resources.

In addition to providing referrals and information on

a wide range of services, the Community Services Coordinator collaborates with such community agencies as Gaining Ground Farm's Food for Families program which brings free organic produce to lower-income families from April to October.

Residents can contact the Community Services Coordinator by phone 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 Office:

*105 Everett St
978-318-3034
jcrozier@concordma.gov*

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Nancy H. Butman, Chair
David Hupper
Valarie Kinkade
Holly Larnier
Barbara Lynn-Davis

Demolition Delay

The Commission's major accomplishment was the addition of 13 houses and structures to the Demolition Delay Bylaw. After careful review, and numerous workshops, the Commission decided against amending the Bylaw itself, having determined that it is working well as it stands.

Fast on the heels of adding properties to the list, the Commission was advised by the Building Department of a request for a permit to demolish a house on the original list: 112 Great Meadows Road—the Samuel Hoar House. This property was built in 1927 and is significant for its association with Samuel Hoar, who contributed the core 250 acres to what is now the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and for its association with Andrew Hepburn, a prominent local architect. While it is regrettable that the house will be lost, its listing on the Bylaw did provide an opportunity for the Historical Commission to thoroughly document the house and its setting for the historical record. This was accomplished in collaboration with the Boston University Center for Digital Imaging Arts; we anticipate that the final portfolio of photographs will be archived at the library.

631 Main Street

At the request of the owners, the Historical Commission sponsored an article on the Town Meeting Warrant requesting that this property, the Amos Wood House, be added to the existing Main Street Local Historic District. This is the first time since historic districts were established in Concord that an individual property has been added to an existing Local District. The Historical Commission worked closely with the Planning Board and with the Historic Districts Commission to define the basis for this property's inclusion in the Main Street District. The Amos Wood House was built in 1763 and was part of a family compound, one house of which, the Ephraim Wood House, was already in the Historic District; in addition, Amos Wood was a Minuteman and his wife, Dorothy, protected the house in 1775 when it was searched by British soldiers looking for military supplies. On the basis of this history it was agreed the house met the criteria for inclusion in the Main Street Historic District and the Commission was pleased when Town Meeting agreed.

Hangar 24 at Hanscom

The future of Hangar 24 at Hanscom Field is an on-going discussion between MassPort, the Historical Commission, Save our Heritage and the Selectmen from the four towns in which the airfield is located. This year, representatives from the Commission attended many meetings, wrote many letters in support of the preservation of Hangar 24 and, finally, made a presentation to the FAA—which will make the final determination as to whether Hangar 24 will be demolished. It is still our hope that a solution will be found that will preserve Hangar 24 and we will continue, against long odds, to work towards that end.

Projects Requiring Historical Commission Review

The construction of new cell towers is an on-going issue that the Commission reviews. Any company wishing to build a cell tower in Concord must be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This triggers a review process that, inevitably, involves the Historical Commission's review of the site and its area of potential effect. The Commission tries to not only evaluate the impact of cell towers on immediate neighborhoods, but the impact on historic views as well. Historic views—over farmland or from the river—have

become more endangered and are, consequently, more important for the Town to protect. The Commission has reviewed several applications this year and approved all of them.

Community Preservation Act Applications

Twelve applications for CPA funds were related to historic preservation. The Commission reviewed them all and heard presentations from seven of them. This is always a wonderful opportunity to support the preservation efforts of a wide variety of groups in Town. The Commission looks forward to reviewing and working with applicants as necessary to successfully complete their projects.

Other Projects

The Historical Commission has been in close communication with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and in October a few Commissioners walked a stretch of the trail with them. This project has exciting opportunities for historical interpretation and we especially look forward to working with them in the future.

The Commission continued its customary tasks of consulting on the naming of new streets—particularly for the development planned on Old Powdermill Road.

We have also continued to process requests for new historic house markers and, most happily, have created a new house marker for West Concord. The marker features a drawing of the West Concord Depot and was developed with the help of Crosby Designs.

Historical Commission members and members of the Historic Districts Commission met with Christopher Skelly from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to consider preservation options and issues that are of mutual concern to us. From that meeting, we have begun to explore the possibility of becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG). As a CLG, Concord may be more eligible for grants for preservation projects which would benefit both the Commission and the Historic Districts Commission. One of the projects the Commission would like to undertake, if funding becomes available, is an update of the Historic Resources Masterplan. We hope to make this information available on the web.

The Commission met with the Steinberg-Lalli Charitable Foundation regarding its plans for a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Commission members also participated in MA Historical Commission and Preservation Massachusetts workshops.

HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

Henry Devlin, Chair
Sandra Conrad, Treasurer
Gordon Fraser, Clerk
Patricia MacAlpine
Walter Miles, Jr.

In 2008, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 200 years ago by Concordian Hugh Cargill. The Trust's purpose is to provide short-term 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 within 24 hours. All requests are kept confidential.

Funds totaling \$32,352.60 were received from the following sources: The Hugh Cargill Trust Fund: \$10,791; the Timothy Wheeler House of Concord: \$4,000; the Concord Municipal Light Plant: \$16,000. The generous contributions from the Timothy Wheeler House, the Concord Municipal Light Plant and private donations were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 156 grants totaling \$50,207.93. This figure represents a 50% increase over 2007. The average grant was \$322. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, gas, and water). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, medical expenses and insurance. The Committee also administered the abatement program for municipal curbside recycling and waste collection funded by Concord Public Works.

For a second year, the Trust was designated by the Board of Selectmen to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Selectman's annual appeal. One hundred seventy-nine requests totaling

\$53,700 were approved. Fifty-five households benefited from the tax-relief program. The Committee continues to work with the Selectmen and Town organizations to publicize the availability of these funds for property tax relief for residents.

In addition, the Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with the religious community and other Town agencies, has established a Concord Cares fund. The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee will administer this fund for citizens in need of fuel assistance. The ConcordCares fund was implemented by January 2009.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through contacts with the Silent Fund, the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, Open Table, the Salvation Army, the *Concord Journal*, local clergy, and other groups.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2009 will 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.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

Walter W. Birge III, President
Richard D. Briggs, Jr., Treasurer
Frederick H. Lovejoy, Jr., Clerk
Jeffrey W. Adams
Stedman Buttrick, Jr.
Diana W. Clymer
O. Mario Favorito
Sherry F. Litwack
Belinda P. Smith

The past year has been a year of contradictions for the Concord Free Public Library Corporation. On the one hand there was the relative calm of no new construction nor, happily, there was no physical calamity to two Library buildings requiring Corporation action. On the other hand, 2008 was a year full of activity supporting the Libraries and planning for the future.

In November, the Main Library Art Gallery featured an exhibition celebrating May Alcott the artist. This was a collaborative effort of Leslie Wilson, the curator of the Library's Special Collections and Jan Turnquist and Orchard House. The excellent exhibit and exciting lecture series were the perfect manifestation of a collaborative effort of two Concord cultural institutions that the Library Trustees dreamt of when the Gallery was renovated and made fully accessible two years ago.

As trustees of the Williams Scholarship Funds, we were pleased to award funds to several deserving students who are studying or about to study in the arts and related fields. These scholarships were made possible by the bequest of Charles H. S. Williams to encourage promising students in the arts.

In addition to maintaining the Libraries' Main and Fowler buildings, the Corporation was able to support the Library by supplying funds for Library operations. Last year that amount totaled \$100,000.

Trustees engaged in a yearlong analysis of the needs of the Fowler Branch of the Library system, in West Concord. West Concord is a growing and vibrant community of the Town. Analysis showed a need for expansion of the building and the utilization of the basement constructed several years ago as part of a previous expansion. Planning has begun for meeting space, greater room for children's books and activities, a young adult section to support the growing group of middle schoolers regularly at the Library, and more space for adult reading and working. The Trustees will be sharing the plans with the Concord Community in the coming year.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Consistent with its longstanding mission and role, the Library Committee fulfilled many responsibilities this year, including but not limited to: continued support of and outreach to the Concord middle and high schools; supporting a variety of artistic and cultural exhibitions, lectures, and presentations; and focusing on increased customer service and ongoing integration of a wide variety of internet-based applications and resources.



Library Committee from left: David Hegarty, Melissa Saalfeld, Paul Dewey, Marty Santis, Pamela Talbot, Chair; Barbara Powell, Director; Kitsy Rothermel. Bob Baldrige

Highlighted below are examples of some of the Committee activities in 2008, and a sample of some of the priorities that will be advanced in 2009.

Throughout the year, the Library Committee plans and runs a meeting with each Library department head to discuss new projects they are undertaking, challenges that face their departments, and suggestions regarding new ideas and strategies that will increase Library usage and community involvement. A common thread running through each department's presentation in 2008 was the exponential increase in service that respective departments are now able to provide through the Library's website. www.Concordlibrary.org. (Toward the end of this year the website was receiving over 60,000 visits monthly!)

The Library Committee met twice this year at the Fowler Branch Library. Our dialogue with the Fowler librarians focused on increased user activity at the branch, the demands placed on the building, and a review of preliminary development plans to renovate the building and to build out the basement to add meeting and study space.

The Library Committee also arranged to meet with several representatives from other local institutions and agencies that look to the library to augment their services, and that would like to expand their relationship with the library. Of particular note is the ongoing dialogue with CCTV and its interest in exploring connections between video presentation and library activities.

In addition, a fruitful meeting was spent with Robin Cicchetti, the incoming CCHS Librarian, with whom we explored opportunities for joint programming and coordinated curriculum support. This is a good complement to the tremendous success of the recently launched “Student Study Hours”, a special time block that is set aside exclusively for students to use the library to study and prepare for exams.

LIBRARY FACTS AT A GLANCE—FY2008* Statistics

Circulation	373,916
Collection holdings	273,078
Interlibrary loans received	34,713
Interlibrary loans provided	48,496
Registered Concordian borrowers	13,453
New items (excluding magazines)	14,000
Audio books and music CDs holdings	13,585
DVDs and VHS holdings	6,626
Downloadable Audiobooks (titles)	1,692
Hours the Main and Fowler libraries open	5,759
Number of children’s programs held	192
Total attendance	3,761
Adult and Young Adult programs held	64
Total attendance	2,690
Number of visits to the library web page	476,701
Magazine/Newspaper subscriptions	500+
Public wireless (wi-fi) Internet logins / month	500+
Public Internet access workstations	27

*Fiscal Year 2008 = July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

If you want to learn more about the many resources available to you at the Library, we suggest, that you visit the library’s website at www.Concordlibrary.org. You may also want to sign up on the website for the Library e-newsletter.

The Library Committee invites any interested person or observer to attend its monthly meetings, which are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Main Library. (Meetings at the Fowler are posted as such.)

**CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATION**

Barbara Powell, Director

At the Library we are often asked two questions that are very difficult to answer: “don’t you think books and newspapers will disappear?” and “what will library service be like in the future?” As far as the books and newspapers are concerned, we can only say that they

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seem to be a very resilient medium. Perhaps younger generations who aren’t used to being able to flip over newspaper or book pages at a glance will be willing to forfeit that ability, but then maybe not.

The second question invites more speculation, but in the last decades the answer seems to have been that library service will continue to evolve around the purposes that public libraries were ever designed to meet. By the second half of the 17th century Concord Selectmen were being instructed to keep the “Towne bookes” from “abusive usage” and that “they not be lent to persons more than one month at a time”. Those ‘bookes’ were the sacred and legal volumes that allowed everyone to form their own opinion on the matters of the days and the books of the well-educated, Shakespeare and the Latin and Greek classics, that allowed anyone to educate him or herself.

As you read the detail of each Library department’s undertakings below you will see that, be it physically in-house, or by contracting with online services, what we continue to do is provide the materials of self education and the raw information with which to form opinion, to build critical thinking. These days add visual literacy to the requirements for self-education. The ability to decode and avoid manipulation by images has become a key civic skill. Finally, as ever, we provide a quiet place to think and entertainment to divert. So, at base, libraries will probably continue to do what they’ve always done.

On a personal note, I would like to say what a privilege it has been to be the Library Director in Concord, a town that values its library like no other town I know.

CHILDREN’S/YOUNG ADULT

Happy sounds are coming from areas of the Children’s Room. Children are reading, working on puzzles, doing homework, looking for just the right book to read, and showing visiting family members what their favorite part of the room is. This department is a hub of activity.

Our department took part in many of the events of the month long Concord Reads: Coming To America program. People from different cultures were pleased to be a part of the celebration highlighting the interesting cultural mix of Concord. Area musicians played world music on beautiful instruments. Ethnic dances were

performed by talented young dancers in a program of world dance. Illustrator Matt Tavares gave a talk about the book that he illustrated called *Lady Liberty*, a book about the Statue of Liberty. We enjoyed an afternoon of sampling breads from around the world. We learned about the importance of our names and had them written in scripts of different nationalities. Storyteller Len Cabral told stories based on his heritage. The Children's Room and the Young Adult areas were colorfully decorated.

The Dance Prism, a local non-profit dance company, presented a ballet version of the classic book *Make Way For Ducklings*. Children also learned about what goes on behind the scenes at a show as well as what it is like to be a ballet dancer.

The Summer Concert series featured an eclectic mix of music. Jah Spirit played wonderful Reggae. Southern Rail played their signature Bluegrass and Koliba performed Afro Pop, a blend of traditional music of West Africa with the contemporary sounds of America .

For the first time, we took part in an on-line program so that children could keep track of the books they had read as well as suggesting new titles to their friends. Part of the summer fun included donations of pennies to sponsor penguins at the Aquarium. Generous donations to the Pennies For Penguins program allowed both the Main Library and the Fowler Library to each sponsor a penguin. The Audubon Ark from Drumlin Farm presented a program at the Fowler Library that included rescued animals. Singer and musician David Polansky entertained the families that attended the annual Halloween party.

The Friends of the Library sponsored workshops for the Young Adult patrons. The Littleton Origami Group taught many origami shapes, artist Betsy Mandrioli showed how to make a sculpted owl and Lou the Balloon Man gave a balloon twisting workshop.

Members of the Orchard House staff presented a workshop that tied in with the Library art exhibit about May Alcott's art. This program gave young patrons a chance to learn about May's work and to draw using the method that Bronson Alcott used to teach his daughters.

Book Eaters, a book discussion group for third graders and the 4th /5th grade book club met monthly. We

have a loyal group of patrons who enjoy talking about books.

Every day at approximately 3:15, the doors to the Library open and a group of sixth graders arrives after being dropped off as part of the regular bus schedule. The YA committee at the Library has been working on ways to keep this age group active library users. In response to High School students' request for extra library hours to study for exams, the Library hosted extended Sunday hours in June. Parent volunteers and lots of snack food were greatly appreciated by over 80 students that day.

The First Friday Food and Flicks program has been a hit. Feature length movies are shown and refreshments are served. The 6th grade French and Spanish language classes displayed the buildings that they had crafted to learn about the French and Spanish cultures. Middle schoolers got together during the summer for The Teen Talk Tuesday book program featuring the required reading titles. The groups were hosted by teachers Eric Beers, Wendy Pfaffenbach and school librarian Karen Pettyjohn.

CIRCULATION

The *Boston Globe* just reported it – “As the economy lags, library use is booming” and if people didn't know it already, Oprah told them, “the library has DVDs.” Stand at the Circulation Desk and you will see how true this is. Video Revolution, American Video and Penguin Video have all closed and residents have discovered that along with everything else they come here for, the library has an excellent DVD collection. This makes the Circulation Department a very busy place to be and we wouldn't have it any other way.

Each year there are enhancements to the circulation system and changes to policies. Patrons are now able to use the new ‘Forgot your PIN?’ feature which emails an active link allowing a patron to reset their own PIN and gain access to their library account online. In order for this feature to work there must be an email address already in the person's account. This is just one of the reasons we ask for your email address. Also this year we evaluated the need for our borrowing limits and decided that the time had come to relax most (but not all) of them. Our goal is to have our patron's walk away happy and feeling that their needs have been met through our

own resources or those of the library network.

The Circulation Department has a terrific staff and this year it was made that much better with the addition of Library Asst. Alex DeBassio and Library Pages Kathryn Gardner and Rebecca Schneyer. Once again we would be remiss if we did not mention how grateful we are to our two volunteers Susan Birge and Kathy Dwyer and to the Friends of the Library for their ongoing support for the museum pass program and tote bag donations. We also thank our patrons, in particular the residents of Concord, for your continued support.

REFERENCE

The Reference Department has had another busy year providing informational and computer-related services to library patrons. An average of 600 questions related to information sources and 300 directional or policy related questions are answered at public desks per week. To meet the increasing use of our Internet computer stations and wireless access, a new computer station was added and the wireless service upgraded. JStor, a comprehensive collection of full-text scholarly publications, was added and already 787 searches have been conducted from our IP address. This database is also available remotely to Concord residents.

Judith Gray was officially appointed to lead the Reference Department. Judith had worked as a staff reference librarian at the Concord Free Public Library for 20 years and had been “acting head of reference” since September. In May, Colleen McCaffrey was hired as 30-hour a week staff librarian. Colleen has a background in both public and academic libraries, as well as technical writing in high tech corporations.

“Book a Librarian” provides patrons flexible scheduling and individual instruction by a reference librarian, tailored to their information or computer-related needs.

The reference staff has undertaken a comprehensive review of periodical holdings and standing orders, looking carefully at usage statistics and overlap with on-line subscription products and free databases. The on-going evaluation and decisions will result in better use of financial resources and library space.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

As always, assisting on-site researchers, responding to inquiries and requests by mail, phone, email, and fax, and filling photo orders formed Special Collections priorities throughout 2008, during which collection use continued at the brisk level of recent years. Curator Leslie Wilson, Staff Assistant Conni Manoli-Skocay, and Technical Associate Bob Hall also made headway with the processing and cataloging of archival materials and worked at ongoing Web development, adding electronic finding aids as completed, generating content for the expanding Historic Buildings pages on the CFPL website, mounting the searchable antebellum Concord town reports pages, and planning the searchable antebellum Concord newspaper pages. The contributions of our volunteers and Simmons College interns were invaluable through it all.

Concord’s Oral History Program began again in earnest after the break necessitated by the passing of Renee Garrellick. Under the direction of Library Director Barbara Powell and Leslie Wilson, Michael and Carrie Kline of Folktalk conducted two rounds of interviews with Concordians in 2008, primarily on the subject of changes to the built landscape in recent decades.

Much effort was devoted to programming, including presentations for an NEH-funded teachers’ seminar on antislavery in Concord, for high school and college classes (groups from the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, the Fenn School, Concord Academy, Calvin College, and Brown University), and for other classes and organizations (Concord history/guides class, Concord Historical Collaborative for Concord-Carlisle Adult and Continuing Education, Winsor School, Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord Genealogical Roundtable, Carlisle Historical Society, Westport Book Group, Minuteman Library Network Local History Task Force, and Rotary Club of Concord). The fall brought joint programming with the First Parish (biographer Robert D. Richardson speaking as part of the Concord Festival of Authors) and a collaborative Concord Free Public Library/Orchard House exhibition “‘Lessons, sketching, and her dreams’: May Alcott as Artist” (on view in the library gallery during November and December 2008 and January 2009). A three-part lecture series accompanied the Alcott display

(with Daniel Shealy lecturing in November, Pulitzer Prize winner John Matteson in December, and Joel Myerson in January).

In the second half of 2008, planning began for a collaborative CFPL/Massachusetts Historical Society exhibition and lecture series in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Minute Man National Historical Park. MHS will lend important primary documentation of April 19, 1775 to show in Concord along with similar material from the CFPL collections.

Curator Leslie Wilson worked to expand the audience for Special Collections holdings through a variety of writing and publishing projects. She contributed essays for publication in two major reference collections—The Oxford Handbook to Transcendentalism (forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2009) and The American Literature Scholar in the Digital Age (University of Michigan Press, 2009). She also took over the editorship of the Thoreau Society Bulletin, which is published four times yearly, and copy edited Joseph C. Wheeler's Ruth Robinson Wheeler: A Concord Life (which was published by the Concord Free Public Library through the generosity of Mr. Wheeler, and for which the CFPL organized a joint publication celebration in July with the Thoreau Farm Trust).

Preservation formed another priority in 2008. The CFPL was awarded \$22,500 of Community Preservation funding to preserve and sustain access to the Thoreau Books, one of the library's major collections and the largest intact collection of books from Thoreau's own library, many of them including annotations in Thoreau's manuscript hand. Leslie Wilson has prepared a follow-up grant for another \$22,500, for which Concord's Community Preservation Committee has recommended full funding at the 2009 Spring Town Meeting.

The Special Collections have grown significantly through both gift and purchase over the past year. Gifts have come in through the generosity of Jean Robbins Brown, Barbara Wheeler, Joseph C. Wheeler, Stephan Bader for REUSIT, Jack W. Heald, Paul Macone, Barbara Lewis, James L. West on behalf of CREW, the Concord Museum, Kristina Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richardson, Robert Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Keyes, Ross Harris, and William Pepicelli (who donated an original

architectural plan for the State armory in Concord), among others. Thanks to all who have helped us carry out our collecting mission.

TECHNICAL SERVICES/TECHNOLOGY

Regarded as the backbone of the entire library operation, the Technical Services Department is responsible for most of the "behind-the-scenes" work such as acquisitions, invoicing, cataloging, processing, data entry and local cataloging database maintenance, book conservation and library technology planning, implementation, management and support.

2008 was another exciting year as we not only performed our day-to-day jobs with remarkable efficiency and accuracy, but also accomplished many other special tasks.

We are pleased to report that over 14,000 items were processed and added to the library collections in the past year. We have completed cataloging and reclassifying close to 2,000 books belonging to the "Library First Collection". They were the very first collection owned by the Library since it was founded in 1873. They are searchable via the library online catalog.

In the past year, we continued to publish the Library online newsletter regularly. The eNewsletter has kept the subscribers informed of what is happening in the library. We have seen a steady growth in its subscription. At this writing, about 450 readers have signed up.

In March, during the month-long Concord Reads about Coming to America, we joined the other staff in planning and organizing the program that included a World Dance Performance, arts/crafts workshops/demos, lectures and book discussions. We were honored that renowned author Ha Jin accepted our invitation to present his new book *A Free Life* with local residents.

In September, teamed up with the Children's/YA Department for a second year, we hosted a welcome reception for the Concord-Xi'an middle school exchange students from China, their host families and teachers. The Library was their first stop in Town. They were greeted by our friendly staff and given a tour of the Main Library.

We continued to expand the Chinese language collections to meet the growing needs of the local residents and patrons from surrounding towns. The circulations

of the Chinese collections were doubled in 2008 compared to a year before.

We are extremely fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers performing various tasks on a regular basis in the past year – Marty Santis, JT Hsu, Winifred Campbell, Libby Kurten, Elaine Adams and wonderful CCHS students Alex Tang, Lauren Zou and Madison Douglas. In December, Dr. Marty Santis “retired” after volunteering for us for seven year. He will be missed by all of us.

Implementing and managing the library technology is one of our responsibilities. It is always gratifying for us to have the ability to respond promptly to the needs of our library users.

In 2008, we made First Class Client available on all public Internet workstations to allow CCHS students to access their school email server from the Library. We upgraded/replaced Main and Fowler public PCs. We are in the process of switching the wireless Internet service provider and equipment in our effort to meet the growing demand and improve our wi-fi access.

Library web page is a window to the library. We continued to implement and manage the library general web page. The total pageviews of the library web site in fiscal year 2008 reached a record high – 476,725 thanks to everyone’s effort.

FOWLER BRANCH

When the Fowler Branch Library brought its basement collection upstairs to a new, sunny and comfortable addition in 1995, we could not have imagined that in 2008 we would often find almost every chair in the building full. Computer work stations are busy, tables are filled with people working on laptops, and other chairs are filled with people scanning the newspaper, reading to toddlers, or working on school assignments. As fast as we can get items through the Minuteman Library Network, a comparable number of items go out in the delivery. Our hold shelves are often overflowing with items patrons have requested, proving that this popular service is a booming and successful part of what people want from the library. Services such as museum passes, now reserved online, and electronic databases are well used. West Concord has become a very lively place—and Fowler has become even livelier as a result.

Fowler also offered a variety of programming designed to meet the needs of the community. The Friends of the Library have continued their popular film series. The Concord Festival of Authors scheduled very well attended author events at Fowler, and the 6th and 7th grade Mother/Daughter book groups continued throughout the year. Ed Morgan performed to overflow crowds of preschool children and their parents during the summer months, and the branch story hours were well attended. We continued to offer outreach services to our neighborhood preschools, and this summer made the transition to a new, Internet-based summer reading program for school aged children.

This year we said goodbye to Polly Peterson, and welcomed Alex Debassio to our circulation staff.

As West Concord continues to grow, we will grow with the community. The combination of books, DVDs, CDs, Internet access, museum passes, programming and all of the services offered by the Fowler Branch Library are likely to keep us even busier this year, and in the years to come.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Rebecca Purcell, President
Stephan & Faith Bader, Co-Treasurers
Jane Torpie, Membership
Claire Greene, Publicity
E. Glenn Mitchell, Adult Programs
Judy Dennen, Fowler Liaison
Edith & Kenneth Hetling, Book Sales
John Lynch, Book Sorters Liaison
Jacqueline Barnard, Film Series
Dianne Weiss, Film Series
Barbara Powell, Library Liaison

The Friends, a non-profit volunteer organization, continues to provide many of the services and amenities that enrich the experience of our library community. The Friends provide museum passes, large-print books, books on tape, CD-ROMS, DVDs, multimedia equipment and staff development opportunities. The Friends also fund the author and film series, classical music concerts, art lectures, and most of the special children’s programs and events throughout the year

As they have for years, Town residents generously donate books and other materials that the Friends sell at our book sales and book cart. Once again this year, we had a



Friends of the Library Board from left: Rebecca Purcell, Glenn Mitchell, Barbara Powell, Jane Torpie, John Lynch, Jacqueline Barnard, Claire Greene, Dianne Weiss, Edi Hetling, Judy Dennen

very successful June sale and a record-setting December holiday book sale. Our book cart and on-line book sales continue to yield solid income. All monies realized from these sales are used to benefit the library.

The Friends poetry and author programs featured readings by Gerald Stern, Micheal O’Saidahl, Mary Jo Salter, Maxine Kumin and Elizabeth Alexander, among others. In March, the Friends participated in the Coming to America-themed “Concord Reads” town-wide event by underwriting two of the featured programs. The Fowler film series featured films from India, Russia, Tunisia and Iran. The Friends hosted six Concord Festival of Authors’ events, including the Halloween Thriller Night and the new-author event at Fowler. The Friends launched two new programs this year. The Third-Thursday Author lectures hosted Bruce Watson, Alan Lawson, Aida Donald, Charles Fried, Alison Bass and Kate Flora. Our art lectures featured independent curator Judy Hoos Fox and Pat Loiko, Registrar for the MFA.

“Music from the Library” concerts featured a mixture of classical and cutting-edge contemporary music with virtuoso performances by soprano Elizabeth Keusch, harpist Ursula Holliger and pianist Marilyn Crispell. Cellist Matt Haimovitz returned for a special performance on May 31. This year, Hans Poppel, a founding member of our Music Committee, returned to his native Germany. A talented composer and pianist, Hans was responsible for many of the innovative musicians who performed at the library during his eleven year tenure. We want to thank his co-chair Sally Sanford for continuing to guide this wonderful program.

True to our free public library tradition, all the foregoing Friends events were free and open to the public.

On October 25, the Friends hosted its eighth annual Ruth Ratner Miller Memorial Lecture in Concord. The award associated with this event recognizes the contributions of American historians. This year’s honoree was David Hackett Fischer, distinguished historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author.

The Friends contributed over \$49,000 to the library this year. We derive our funds from our book sales, Friends’ merchandise receipts, and membership dues and contributions. The Friends of the Library succeeds because of the support of its members and volunteers. We welcome you to join us.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

- Michael Rudd, Co-Chair
- Frank Okurowski, Co-Chair
- Ann Lang, Secretary
- Sandy Folk, Treasurer
- Robert Abraham
- Karen Ahearn
- Isabel Bailey
- Meg Gaudet
- Carol Harney
- Dot Higgins
- Marion Pohl
- Lois Rudd

Picnic-in-the-Park had a successful 27th annual event. The weather was off to a shaky start, with the set up taking place in heavy drizzle, but it cleared up later. Thanks to tremendous support from Concord Public Works and the booth-holders, we were again able to put on a memorable Fourth of July. Bill Staines and Southern Rail performed inside the National Guard Armory, and their performances were received so enthusiastically that they played beyond their planned time. The Concord Band, who played at a later time, was able to set up outdoors on Emerson Field. We had an attendance of about 1,000 people.

In addition to Concord Recreation Department, Peter Flynn and his Concord Public Works crew provided the set up and the Concord Light Department provided the power. The Concord Fire Department provided standby safety services and also their Fire House for the children. The Concord Police Department provided security



services, the radar baseball toss and a K9 demonstration. The Massachusetts National Guard provided the use of their armory. Rebecca Purcell, Aileen Kussin and Melissa Saalfeld organized the field games, and Bruce Barker was the Master of Ceremonies. We also received assistance from many wonderful volunteers.

The following companies helped support the entertainment: Cambridge Trust Company, the Middlesex Savings Bank and the Harold F. Nichols Insurance Agency. Support was also received from the Concord Shop, Vanderhoof Hardware, Lawless Upholstery and Merlin Silver Star, as well as the Concord Bookshop, Crosby's Marketplace, MacRae-Tunncliffe's Concord Funeral Home, Concord Toy Store and Concord Hand Design. RE/MAX Walden Country provided their Hot-air Balloon.

In general, corporate contributions were greatly diminished this year. Accordingly, the bulk of the financial contributions came from the many private "Picnic Backers." These contributions went to supporting the event and funding the entertainment. After all expenses had been paid, a donation was made to the Concord Recreation Department Summer Scholarship Fund.

RECREATION COMMISSION

Michele O'Brien, Chair
 John Inman
 Susanne Jarnryd
 David McKenna
 Elizabeth Seabury

In May the much anticipated turf field complex was completed. Two full size multi-use fields were built to accommodate a variety of sports. The complex includes

parking for 90 cars as well as lights for night use. The various sports groups are sharing the cost of utilities and maintenance. The Recreation Department is responsible for scheduling the use of the fields.

The Commission is pleased to report that an anonymous donor has provided for the construction of permanent restroom facilities which will be available in the spring.

Use of the fields began in the summer and continued heavily through the fall season (November) by soccer, football and lacrosse. The facility was a daily support for the various CCHS teams for practice and games.

This was truly a community effort and many thanks go to the following organizations who contributed: Concord/Carlisle Youth Soccer, Youth Lacrosse, Youth Baseball/Softball/Pop Warner Football, and Adult Soccer.

Beede Swim & Fitness Center

Since the Beede Swim & Fitness Center opened its doors in 2006, it has hosted over 348,000 customer visits, an average of 12,000 per month! The Center is open 100 hours per week, 50 weeks a year and is staffed by 70+ full and part time employees.

The Beede Center operates as an enterprise fund; it does not receive tax funding and relies solely on membership and program fees to achieve its self-support.

Membership is comprised of approximately 75% Concord citizens and 25% users from surrounding communities. Since opening, the membership has been stable, averaging approximately 1,965 memberships and 5,500 members.

The Center has offerings for all ages, from infant/parent swim lessons to adult water fitness; diving off the



New Playing Fields ribbon cutting.

high board or relaxing in the therapy pool. The Beede Center hosts the high school Physical Education swim classes and competitive swim team. The fitness center offers both cardio and strength equipment with highly skilled certified fitness staff who offer personal training to the members. Members receive discounts off swim and fitness classes and early registration privileges. The Center is handicapped-accessible and offers excellent opportunities for those members with disabilities to participate.

Capital Improvements

Three projects were accomplished during 2008. The first was the resurfacing of the Hunt Gymnasium floor that had not had a major resurfacing since 1988. The second improvement was the painting of the Hunt Gymnasium. The third improvement was the resurfacing of the Emerson Playground Track. The track surface was ten years old – the expected time for periodic maintenance.

Rideout Initiative

Concord Carlisle Youth Baseball explored the feasibility of Rideout becoming a multi-field baseball site. The Commission met with the West Concord neighborhood for input and considered the merits of CCYB's proposal and decided that this was not the best use for Rideout.

Concord Open Golf Tournament

This year we welcomed the Lamont Family as sponsor of the Concord Open Golf Tournament, held on August 25. We are deeply grateful for their support as well as the contributions of all the sponsors. Proceeds from this event enabled 80 Concord children to attend summer camp.

Programs

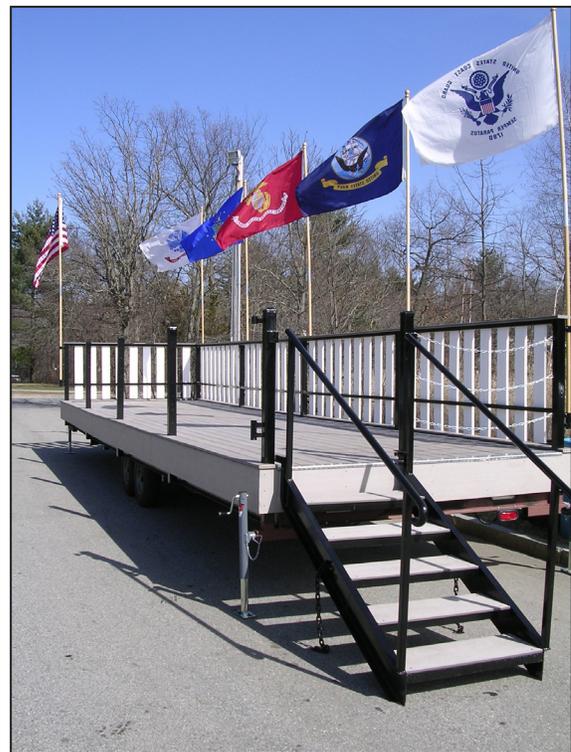
The Department continues to serve a wide range of ages in the community. Major offerings include: Summer Camps, School Year Childcare, Carousel Preschool, Sport Clinics and programs such as basketball and ski. Adult fitness classes continue to be popular. These include cycling, rowing, Pilates, yoga, and aerobics.

In 2008, the Recreation Department provided over \$150,000 in scholarship support for deserving Concord families.

PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Wayne Busa
Nancy Crowley
Douglas Detweiler
Mary Fasano
Ruth C. Lauer
James Macone
Mark Merlino

This Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing the celebrations sponsored by the Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2008 include: Honored Citizen Ceremony, March 16; Meriam's Corner Exercise, April 12; Patriot's Day Parade, April 21; Dawn Salute April 19; Memorial Day Ceremonies, May 26; Veteran's Day Flag Retirement, November 11. The observances are recorded in the photographs in this Annual Report.



Due to extreme weather conditions that were unsafe for participants and visitors alike, the 2007 Patriots' Day Parade was cancelled. Everyone was very sad! There was a silver lining! PCCC member Jim Macone, in a cooperative effort with CPW and the schools, was instrumental using funds that were not expended on that event to create a reviewing stand for future parades and community events. It is safe, spacious, and mobile! It debuted at the 2008 Parade.



Marian Thornton was recognized as the 2008 Honored Citizen. The honor acknowledges Marian's quiet, persistent, and outstanding efforts on behalf of the community over many years.



Concord welcomes the United States Air Force Band of Liberty in the Patriots Day Parade and ceremonies at the North Bridge.



The Concord Independent Battery is entrusted by the Town with custody of the Town's two historic six-pound brass cannons and plays an active and significant role in the celebrations of events surrounding April 19.



The Meriam's Corner Celebration marks the actions of colonists from forty towns who bravely left their homes and farms to engage the soldiers of the British King as they retreated from the Concord Fight on April 19, 1775.





Each year the 4-H Fife and Drum Corps ably demonstrates its motto: “Remember History and Play it Loud” at Concord Ceremonies and Celebrations.



Captain Theresa Maagoul was one of the Flag Receivers from Hanscom Air Force Base who accepted worn flags from participants and passed them to the Fire Department Burn Team for appropriate Retirement.



The Barrett family contributed a new flag pole in Sleepy Hollow.



The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee is grateful to the many who helped make the celebrations of 2008 so successful—Town officials, the staff of various Town departments, CCHS Music, the VFW, the American Legion, the Minutemen, the Concord Independent Battery, 4H Fife & Drum Corps, and ALL participants. Once again, many thanks to the supportive people of Concord, Massachusetts.



Willard Wolfe Scouts were among the many troops and dens that assisted in folding the flags to be retired on Veterans Day.

CONCORD-CARLISLE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Officers

Molly Carocci, Co-chair
Polly Attwood, Co-chair
Kristin Allison, Secretary
Steve Zippin, Treasurer
Liz Clayton, Newsletter Editor
Lorell Gifford, Webmaster

Members at Large

Donna Balmuth
Norman Beecher
Wendy Davis
Diana Hughes
Laura Kangas
Maria Madison
Sue Ryan
Bridget Saltonstall

Organizational Representatives

Steve Bloomfield, Sister City Committee
Court Booth, Adult Education
Kim Bovell, METCO
Jeff Desjarlais, Independent Schools
Gary Monserud, Minuteman ARC

The Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council was established in 1978, and bases its work on the premise that the climate of the community is the responsibility of the community. In pursuit of the goal of strengthening the ideals of dignity, justice and dignity to all, the Council commits itself to being a resource for residents and visitors to the towns of Concord and Carlisle. Its actions and initiatives are local, though we take note of national and international issues that will affect our community.

The Council published two newsletters in 2008 – spring and fall. They can be viewed on the website – cchumanrights.org – and were mailed to our membership of about 650 households.

On Thursday, January 17, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was held at the Thoreau School. The Celebration consisted of songs from the Willard School Fifth Grade Chorus, with their Director, Charlyn Bethel, and songs from the Boston Children's Choirs, with their Director, Michelle Adams, and organizer Mike Mavillia. There were about 230 people in attendance.

On Sunday, May 4, the Council coordinated the 28th Annual Holocaust Memorial Observance at the request

of the Concord Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen issued a Proclamation of the week of April 27-May 4 as the official Week of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust. Mr. Hyme Hipsman, survivor from Poland, was the speaker for the evening, and Rosalie Gerut, Cantor at Kerem Shalom, provided her wonderful music. The Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Greg Howes, welcomed the one hundred or so people to the event, the Reverend Matthew Genzlinger gave the closing meditation.

Staffing a table at the Annual Picnic-in-the-Park, Council members gave out information, and ran the ever-popular Bean-bag Toss game.

Over the summer and into the fall, a subcommittee worked on gathering nominations for the Biannual 'Climate of Freedom Award'. This Award is given to a group or organization within the Concord-Carlisle community that has worked to strengthen and uphold the ideals of dignity, respect and safety for all. The Council handed the candidate information to a panel of three judges (past Chairs of the Council), and their recommendation was voted on at the October Executive Board meeting. The Award was presented to the Concord Chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) at the annual Human Rights Day Breakfast on Monday, December 1. This event was held at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, and hosted by the Reverend John Lombard. Beth Shaw accepted the award on behalf of the Concord Chapter, and Pam Garramone, Executive Director of the Greater Boston PFLAG, spoke of the organization's work in promoting acceptance, safety and dignity for all. This event was televised for CCTV. State Senator Susan Fargo presented a citation from the State House to recognize the great and important work performed by this group.

Among the ongoing initiatives on the Council's agenda is the establishment of a Black Heritage and Abolitionists' Trail in Concord. The Council has been working on this goal all year, and has their first formal tour to a group of Girl Scouts scheduled for the end of January 2009. As work progresses, those interested can follow its progress on the website.

As well as the regularly scheduled activities, the Council responds to the needs of individuals who request advice on human rights issues. The Council is not a mediat-

ing body, but has several resources to which it can refer people. For a fuller account of these concerns and the Council's response, please check the 'Response to Hate Crimes' article on the website - cchumanrights.org

There is no charge for any Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council event; we are a 501c3 organization, so donations are tax-deductible, and we are completely dependent on the generosity of donors, both individual, faith group and funding agencies. It is a measure of the commitment of the people within this community to the ideal of justice that an organization such as this can continue its work. Thank you to all who contributed to that work, both in dollars and in volunteer hours during the past year.

CONCORD CULTURAL COUNCIL

Kathleen Kennedy, co-chair
 Karen Crane
 Deborah Disston
 Patsy Eickelberg
 Jennifer Jacoby
 Maria Madison
 Cheryl Shea

The Concord Cultural Council (CCC), whose members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen, 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."

Information about applying for grants was publicized in the *Concord Journal* and *Boston Globe Northwest*; guidelines and applications were distributed at the Town House and both branches of the Concord Free Public Library, and schools/PTGs were notified about the application process. The application deadline for 2008 was October 15. Meetings were held on September 9, October 21, October 28, November 25, 2008 and January 13, 2009.

Information packets were distributed for 28 requests for \$16,273 in funding at the October 21, meeting. At that meeting and at follow-up meetings in November,

reimbursements from 2007-2008 were reviewed and 2008-2009 grant applications were considered according to MCC and CCC guidelines, which were then discussed and voted on. The Council chose to fund 15 proposals. Council members were assigned as liaisons for each grant recipient.

Individuals and organizations may apply to the CCC for funding for programs, projects and presentations in music, dance, visual arts, poetry, literature, drama, the 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 the Concord community.

CONCORD CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS 2008-2009

Concord Band Association	\$250
50 th Anniversary Commission	
Concord Art Association	\$300
Marketing CCHS Show	
Alcott Elementary School	\$225
Tanglewood Marionette's The Dragon King	
Concord Conservatory of Music	\$300
Faculty Performance Series	
Communities for Restorative Justice	\$400
Photography Exhibit	
Indian Hill Music	\$300
Big Band Concert for COA	
CCHS Ecuador Exchange	\$200
Ballet Juvenil Folklorico de Colombia	
CCHS School Orchestra	\$120
PASS Grant	
Willard School	\$225
Author's Fest	
Concord Chorus	\$250
Spring Concert	
CCHS Dance Club	\$200
Latin Dance Workshop	
Wendy Frank	\$430
Music Enrichment for Special Needs Children	
Acton Community Chorus	\$200
Winter and Spring Concerts	
CCTV	\$450
Oral History Project	
The Barn Cooperative Nursery School	\$200
Family Concert	
TOTAL	\$4,150

CONCORD-SAN MARCOS SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Steven Bloomfield, chair
Al Armenti, former Chair and Co-founder
Shirley Andrews, Secretary
Fiona Nauseda, Secretary
Sam Alexander, Treasurer
Debbie Barr
Cynthia Bent
Cedric Bien
Catherine Greenwald
Nancy Kerr
Lal Minton
Amy Schnitzer
Karin Segal
Anna Shubashvili

Steering Committee

Debbie Barr, Cynthia Bent, Cedric Bien, Vivian Bien, Catherine Greenwald, Nancy Kerr, Lal Minton, Amy Schnitzer, Karin Segal

Advisors

Beth Dawson, David Dawson, Edie Mas, Megan Sandel, Gene Sheftelman, Barbara Tinker, and Robert Tinker

Mission

The Concord-San Marcos Sister Cities Committee encourages peace and mutual understanding, and socio-economic development in Nicaragua, through programs of cultural exchange and economic assistance carried



Concord youngsters visited our Sister City in Nicaragua to play baseball and soccer, to carry out activities of community service, and to appreciate Nicaragua's bountiful natural environment.

out in a spirit of cooperation by the people of Concord and the city of San Marcos, Nicaragua. Concord Town Meeting established the Sister Cities Committee in 1986 and reaffirmed the value of the Committee's work by a second vote in 1987. The Committee works under the auspices of the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council. Voluntary membership of Concord citizens and voluntary support by means of financial donations and the contributions of goods and services from citizens in and around Concord sustain the Committee's work.

Projects in 2008

Traveling from Concord, a dozen boys from 13 to 16 years of age and a 17-year-old girl visited San Marcos in August, ostensibly to play baseball and soccer, to carry out activities of community service, and to appreciate Nicaragua's bountiful natural environment. The true purpose, however, was one of friendship and learning. They carried out every one of these activities side by side with their hosts, communicating and cooperating. The young Concordians were in a week of constant dialogue with their Nicaraguan peers and with themselves. Received very well everywhere they went, they learned more about sport and about life in a week than they had in many years of competition and of service closer to home.

The visitors worked for a day at the orphanage, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters, www.nph.org) to assist in the construction and plant-



ing of a new campus in the town of Santa Teresa, near San Marcos.

Perhaps the visitors' most important visit took place in El Uval, a village far away from the center of the urban core of San Marcos but still within its jurisdiction. For much of the year, the 400 inhabitants of the village live with no available water apart from what can be brought in by barrels on horseback. Concord's visitors spent the day planting teak saplings in people's yards and on the borders of farmers' bean fields and participating in a piñata party for El Uval's children. At the end of the day, a number of adults in the village gathered to propose that Concord and its sister-cities committee support its project to drill a 300-meter well to bring water directly to the village for the first time. Toward the end of 2008, the Committee launched a large fundraising project to bring water to El Uval.

Concord-Carlisle Youth Baseball, the Tricon Sports Shop in Lexington, Legends Sporting Goods in Acton, and the Goodtimers' Softball Club of Lexington made material or financial donations to support the visit.

In San Marcos itself, the Committee continued its sponsorship of scholarships with stipends of \$60 to each of nearly 50 elementary school students at the Escuela San Marcos to encourage the children to stay in school, maintain consistent attendance, and earn honors-level grades.

The Sister Cities Committee continues to operate a micro-bank in San Marcos in cooperation with a small San Marcos-based board of directors. FECONDESAM, founded on March 6, 1996, now has a financial base of over \$24,000, and its loans are in the hands of some 40 small business people, mostly women, who have borrowed amounts between \$50 and \$2000 at a 5 per cent rate of interest.

Sources of Funding

The Committee derives its financial support from six-times-a-year swing dances at the Concord Scout House generously run by Sam Alexander, Susan Chivvis and Rick Moore and by donations from Concord citizens as well as contributions of goods and services.

Future Directions

The Committee will continue its work in the coming year in the areas of educational scholarships, micro-

credit, public health, and youth and adult exchanges. It will concentrate the bulk of its energies on raising funds for the building of El Uval's well.

The Committee's Web site resides at: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/San%20Marcos

CONCORD-NANAE NETWORK SISTER CITY

Judy Terry, Chair
Tom Curtin, Vice-Chair

In March the CCHS bands hosted the ninety-member Sapporo Shiroishi Symphonic Wind Ensemble for a joint concert at Boston's Symphony Hall, a meeting with Governor Patrick at the State House, and home stays that were enjoyed by our visitors and the many Concord and Carlisle host families. While Concord's official sister city is Nanae in southern Hokkaido, the relationship with the Sapporo Shiroishi High School has been an integral part of our vibrant relationship with the Japanese.

The Concord-Nanae Network hosted a luncheon for Japanese Consul General and Mrs. Yoichi Suzuki after they marched in the Patriots Day Parade.

A delegation of CCHS and CPS teachers went to Nanae in July to initiate plans for a 2010 CCHS Concert Band trip, to further existing elementary school and high school sister school relationships, and to explore us-



Nanae Visitors at Concord Fire Headquarters



Susan Erickson from Thoreau School met in Yukie Arai's classroom in Nanae to build on a flourishing learning partnership.

ing the Internet to broaden communications between Concord and Nanae. It was highly successful.

Nanae sent its annual delegation of eight students and seven adults in October. The adults were enthusiastically welcomed by the Concord Police Department, the Concord Fire Department, and the Water/Sewer Division of the Public Works Department. They also visited local businesses, gardens, and historical sites. Students and adults had a marvelous Japan Day at the Thoreau Elementary School and a potluck supper at CCHS that was attended by 300 supporters of the sister city relationship. At the potluck, recognition was given to the Coordinators of International Relations (CIR) who had served in Nanae since 1998: Kathryn Vandever, Monica Terry Tsubaki, Emily Farrow, Burton Bates, and Whitney Warren. Bobby Kargula, the current CIR, was formally hired by Nanae Town that evening.

Thoreau Elementary School held a Family Japan Night on November 14 that included information about the Nanae sister city relationship and many aspects of Japanese culture.

Use of the Internet has flourished this year. CIR Bobby Kargula has a website in which he writes about his experiences in Nanae (cir.concordcarlisle.wikispaces.net). Thoreau Elementary School teacher Susan Erickson

shares a weekly classroom blog with Onuma Elementary School teacher Yuki Arai. Thoreau library/media specialist Karen Pettyjohn regularly shares highlights of Bobby Kargula's site with her students. CCHS English teacher David Nurenberg, whose students have previously had e-mail relationships with Nanae students, is developing a website that will include contributions from CCHS students and three Japanese high schools. History was made on December 21 when CCHS, CCTV, and CNN collaborated in successfully live broadcasting the CCHS Bands' Seasonal Concert to Nanae.

VETERANS' SERVICES

Richard Krug,
Veterans' 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 full-time Veterans' Services Officer. The Veterans' Services Officer must be a war-era veteran and be available full time to provide assistance. The Town is reimbursed by the State for 75% of benefits paid under this mandated program. With the support of the Commonwealth's House, Senate and Executive Office, Massachusetts is now recognized as having one of the most comprehensive veterans' programs in the nation.

The Office of Veterans' Services, located at 105 Everett Street, is a one stop human service office with the top priority of providing services designed to improve the quality of life for every veteran in Town. Some examples of services for veterans and their surviving dependents are filing for Veterans Affairs compensation and pension matters, care of veterans graves, homeless identification, discharge difficulties, educational and vocational benefits, employment, and alcohol-drug treatment.

The Veterans' Services Officer responds to daily calls requesting information, advice and assistance. Calls come from Concord residents as well as veterans and dependents from surrounding communities, and the numbers are constantly increasing. This is a result of an aging veteran population on one hand, and the fact that

more than 26,000 additional veterans have returned to Massachusetts from Iraq and Afghanistan, according to State records.

The Veterans' Services Officer often helps veterans obtain assistance from veterans' organizations as well as other State and Federal organizations, such as Social Security. The Veterans' Services Officer has also been called upon to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for veterans. Currently there is one individual receiving financial assistance for qualifying Chapter 115 benefits.

Financial assistance to qualified veterans and their dependants is provided, in accordance with State and federal regulations, for the following types of expenditures: food, clothing, shelter, heating and utilities, telephone and transportation, personal needs, insurance, burial allowances, medical and prescription costs, dental, nursing and hospital costs.

The Veterans' Services Officer has been networking with local civic groups, senior citizen groups and area veterans' organizations of peacetime veterans and war veterans, as well as families of service members currently deployed. He has assisted at veterans' funerals, worked with students during 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, speaking on

the history of the Vietnam War and Veterans' Affairs. In addition to reaching out to veterans who are seniors, he has generated articles for the local newspaper about local veterans and their service to the country, along with some facts and perhaps a bit of humor that might be of interest to residents, as well as information on how to contact the local Veterans' Services Officer.

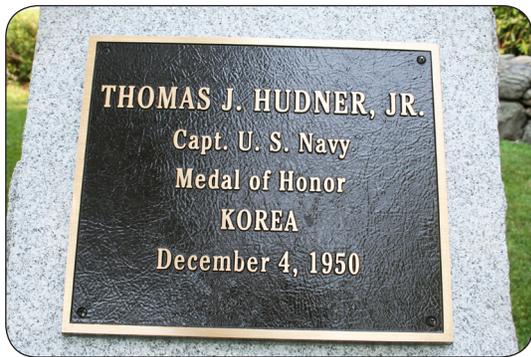
The following is a list of applications applied for or services requested from Concord Veterans' Services during calendar year 2008:

VETERANS SERVICE REQUESTS

Prescription Benefits	12
Death Benefits	22
Housing Benefits	9
24 Assisted Living	6
Alzheimer Issues	4
Aid & Attendance	8
Chapter 115	17
Surviving Spouse	12
VA Forms	23
Financial Assistance	14
Hearing Aids	4
Military Medals	27
Military Records	24
Health Benefits	18
Employment	10
Welcome Home Bonus	2
Disability Annuity	2
Disability Tax	11
Abatement	
Social Security Assistance	4
Hearing Aids	4

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

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



Capt. Thomas Hudner addressing the hundreds of friends, neighbors, and supporters who came together at the Veterans Memorial site on Monument Square where the Rotary Club of Concord donated and installed a plaque to honor him as a recipient of the Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a naval aviator in the Korean War.



REGISTRAR OF VETERANS' GRAVES

James M. Deas,
Registrar

There were 38 interments of United States Veterans in the Town of Concord cemeteries in 2008. The names of the Veterans, their respective wars, date of burial and place of burial are as follows:

VETERAN'S NAME	PERIOD OF DUTY	BURIAL DATE	CEMETERY
Paul Horne	WW II	January 29	Sleepy Hollow
Arthur L. Carr	WW II	January 22	Sleepy Hollow
John Martinson	Peacetime	February 1	Sleepy Hollow
Russell Dixon	WW II	February 1	St. Bernard's
Archibald Brown	WW II	February 4	St. Bernard's
William Farris	WW II	March 27	St. Bernard's
Stanley Wilson	WW II	March 28	Sleepy Hollow
John McQuilkin	WW II	March 29	St. Bernard's
Alfred M. Berwick	Vietnam	April 3	St. Bernard's
George Rohan	WW II	April 5	Sleepy Hollow
Mario J. Celi	Peacetime	April 14	Sleepy Hollow
Catherine Neville	WW II, Korea	April 22	St. Bernard's
Alexander W. Moore	WW II	April 25	Sleepy Hollow
Robert L. Moore	WW II	May 10	Sleepy Hollow
Bernard W. Waterman	WW II	May 13	Sleepy Hollow
Alvah Ayer	WW II	May 15	St. Bernard's
Donald Molony	WW II	May 25	Sleepy Hollow
Steve DeMario	WW II	May 30	St. Bernard's
Frederick Donnelly	WW II	June 4	St. Bernard's
David Soleau	Vietnam	June 5	Sleepy Hollow
Thomas Wallace	WW II	June 7	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph L. Dawson	WW II, Korea	June 11	Sleepy Hollow
Donald Montague	Vietnam	June 13	Sleepy Hollow
Richard Hustvedt	Vietnam	July 26	Trinity Church
John Ball	Vietnam	July 29	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph Barbaro	WW II	August 12	St. Bernard's
David N. Reece	WW II	August 20	Sleepy Hollow
Martin Moloney	WW II	August 30	St. Bernard's
George Freeman	WW II	October 21	St. Bernard's
Newton Teixeira	WW II	October 13	Sleepy Hollow
Theresa M. Jones	Korea, Vietnam	November 15	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph T. Kelnhofer	Vietnam	November 15	St. Bernard's
James McNeil	WW II	November 17	St. Bernard's
Joseph Dion	WW II	December 6	Sleepy Hollow
Pakrad Giragosian	WW II	December 6	Sleepy Hollow
Donald T. Crowell	Peacetime	December 8	Sleepy Hollow
Norman A. Christian	WW II, Korea	December 10	Sleepy Hollow
Michael McGraw	Korea	December 17	Sleepy Hollow