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## CONCORD CULTURAL COUNCIL



*Standing from left: Dan Schragger, Di Clymer, Janet Silver, Laurence Constable. Seated from left: Debbie Canally, Patty Bruttomesso, Maggie Terris, Diana Lee, Victoria Mulligan*

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.” This year \$4,300 was received. 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, and 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 FY 2014 -2015 grants was publicized in the *Concord Journal* and on the Mass Cultural Council website ([www.mass-culture.org/Concord](http://www.mass-culture.org/Concord)). Flyers were posted on bulletin boards and in stores throughout the Town.

Guidelines and applications were available at the Town

House and both locations of the Concord Free Public Library. The application deadline for 2014 was October 15. Public meetings were held on September 23, October 21, October 28, and November 18, 2014. Applications were reviewed and voted on in accordance with both State and Local guidelines.

The Council chose to fund the following 21 proposals:

- Acton Community Chorus
- Concord Art Association
- Concord Band Association
- Concord Conservatory of Music
- Concord Orchestra
- Concord Players, “Traveling Player”
- Concord Women’s Chorus
- Contemporary Arts International
- Discovery Museum
- Drinking Gourd Project, Inc.
- Electa Kane Tritsch (Tracks in Time: Exploring the land for Concord TV)
- Essence of India
- First Connections
- Fruitlands Museum
- Indian Hill Music, Inc.
- Kammerwerke Double Wind Quintet
- Robert Creeley Foundation
- The Umbrella Community Arts Center
- Thoreau School
- Virginia Thurston Healing Garden
- Willard School PTG

Additional information on the CCC grant program is available at: <https://www.mass-culture.org/Concord>

## RECREATION COMMISSION

Susanne Jarnryd, Chair  
Lawrence Gordon  
Peter Hunter  
Jim Richardson  
Peter Ward

In 2014, Danner DeStephano, the Recreation Director of 36 years announced his retirement. His accomplishments during his tenure are numerous beginning in 1987 from the moving of the Recreation Department to the rehabilitated Hunt Recreation Center to overseeing the construction of the Beede Swim and Fitness Center in 2006. Danner has been instrumental in creating multiple athletic fields including two lighted Turf fields, a full size

track, playgrounds and a pool at Emerson Field. The After School and Preschool programs established in 1984 continue to operate successfully. The total revenue of the Recreation Department in 2014 was \$1,839,494.52.

All of the Department's programs and services including the Beede Swim & Fitness Center operate without tax dollars on a user-fee basis. 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 as lead sponsor of the Concord Open Golf Tournament. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Chip Cannon, sponsorship chairman, who was instrumental in the success of this event. Since 2014 was the last year of the Concord Open, we are pleased to report that over \$68,000 was raised for summer camp scholarships.

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 and the Concord Public School continues to support the METCO scholarships for the Summer at Alcott program which provides Boston families a day camp experience following summer school.

Thanks to the following organizations/individuals for their support: The Silent Fund, Concord Women's Club, Picnic in the Park and a special note of appreciation to Tim Gaudreau – Alcott Physical Education Director for his donation from proceeds of the Annual Turkey Trot.

#### *New Initiatives*

An article presented at 2014 Town Meeting requiring dog owners to pick-up after their pets and leashing their pets during camp hours at Emerson Field did not pass. The dog restrictions on Cemetery properties were also voted down.

The Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan to gauge the community's vision for potential recreational facilities

and programming was completed and presented to the Selectmen in October. Recreation staff is working with the Recreation Commission to prioritize the recommendations of the strategic plan under the direction of the Town Manager.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

The Recreation Department provides programs for a wide range of ages from toddlers to adult. Major programs include school-age childcare, the Carousel Preschool, a variety of summer camps and clinics as well as youth basketball, skiing and tennis. The Hunt Gym is constantly in use with noon-time basketball and evening adult sports such as volleyball and basketball.

The Department produces community special events such as the Shamrock Ball/Parent Daughter Dance in March, the Minuteman Classic Road Race on July 4th, the 6th grade Halloween Event in October, an 8th grade Valentine's Event which is a fundraiser for Concord-Carlisle Community Chest and 'Hooray for Hollywood', a dance party for 7th graders. All of these activities are designed to provide a safe and fun evening for middle school students. Proceeds support the summer camp scholarships.

#### *Maureen Taggart Award*

The 2014 award recipient was Caroline Bonnano. 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 Safe Water International in Malawi, Africa.



*From left: Susanne Jarnryd, Chair; Caroline Bonnano, Recipient of the Maureen Taggart Award; T.J. Liakos, Recreation Department Staff*

## BEEDE SWIM & FITNESS CENTER

Opened in April of 2006, the Center celebrated its 8th year of operation this past 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 and part time employees. The Center is fully handicapped accessible.

Membership is comprised of approximately 2,770 Concord Residents and 1,078 users from surrounding communities. There are 1,779 memberships supporting approximately 3,848 total members.

This year, the Beede Center experienced 180,425 people from Concord and surrounding communities using the facilities at the Center -- an average of 15,035 visits per month- an average of 516 users per day.

The Beede Center continued to operate "in the black," adding to the fund balance for the 8th year. For fiscal year 2014, revenues were \$2,450,179 with expenses of \$2,375,861 resulting in a net income of \$83,492.

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 hard 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; diving and use of the warm water therapy pool. The staff is fully certified for their specialty. This year swim private lessons became available to non-members, where previously only members could participate. The Department's youth swim team, the Concord Otters is a highly successful program serving over 175 youth between the ages of 5 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 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 replaced 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 that prefer a one-on-one training session. Group Exercise programs are held at the Hunt Recreation Center and 105 Everett Studios. Members of the Beede Center receive a 40% discount on those classes.

The Beede Center is committed to conserving energy and going "green" whenever the opportunity arises -- A few examples are: cleaning products used at the Center are certified "green" products. The photovoltaic control system maximizes use of natural lighting and conserves energy. Variable speed drives were installed on each of the 4 pool motors to reduce energy consumption. Efficient lighting was installed in the natatorium, lobby and stairwells. There has been significant reduction in energy consumption with considerable saving in the past eight years.

Pam Higgins, Assistant Recreation Director and Jon Straggas, Recreation Coordinator have been working on an important project to improve the HVAC systems, boilers and hot water heaters along with the installation of an automatic control command system which will provide the Town with a substantial energy savings. When all these energy initiatives are complete the Beede Center should realize an overall 42% energy savings. This project will be completed by early 2015. The project is being financed by the Beede Center's Depreciation Fund for \$1.35 million and \$175 thousand from the Sawyer Trust Fund.

The Department provided 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. This was an arduous project that took months to complete. The staff worked diligently during those months to master and implement the new software and develop the web site in time for the early September registration period. 102 customers registered online the first day registration began.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with Danner DeStephano, Recreation Director of 36 years. He will be greatly missed by the Recreation Program and Beede Center Staff. His leadership and guidance have allowed the Recreation Department to grow and flourish providing the Concord community with one of the finest Recreation Departments in the State. In 1982 with the passing of proposition 2 ½, he was given the daunting task of running the department on a self-supporting-user fee basis, which he willing and successfully embraced.

Even with the pressure of operating without tax funding, he continued to grow the department while staying true to the mission of providing programming for all Concord residents. He was committed to providing scholarships to those families that needed help seeing that “no child was left behind.” The Recreation Department will continue to operate with all the outstanding qualities that Danner has instilled in the staff over the years. We are truly grateful for having had the opportunity to work, learn and grow with him.



From left: Pam Higgins, Danner DeStephano, Laura Lunig

## PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK JULY 4TH 2014

Frank Okurowski, Co-Chair  
Corporate Donations  
Marie Foley, Co-Chair & Booths  
Sandy Folk, Treasurer  
Tina Browne, Secretary  
Karen Ahearn, Entertainment & Publicity  
Dot Higgins, Publicity  
Irme Doane, Picnic Backer Letters  
Ann Lang, Children’s Parade & Raffle  
Ann Edgar, Hot Air Balloon  
Will Gertsmyer, Logistics  
Michael Rudd, Volunteer for PA System & Posters

The weather for the 2014 Fourth of July Picnic-in-the Park was as bad as possible, as Hurricane Arthur bore down on New England. It was impossible to hold outdoor events, so the children’s parade, the REMAX Hot Air Balloon, the non-profit booths and the Concord Police and Fire Departments support was all cancelled. However, all was not lost as there was a backup plan for a venue for the entertainment in case of rain. This was the Umbrella Community Arts Center building theater and the Hunt Gym basketball court. With the support of the Umbrella staff and the Concord Recreation Department, all the musical and children’s entertainment was performed. These in-

clude: Roger Tinknell, the Southern Rail Bluegrass Band, Circus Minimus, and the Concord Band.

The following corporate sponsors and private donors provided funds for the entertainment: Middlesex Savings Bank, Cambridge Trust Company, Salem Five Bank, Mc-Walter Volunteer Insurance, Concord Lumber Company, Nichols Insurance, Dunkin Donuts Concord, and Charles and Gloria Clough. The Concord Bookshop and *Concord Journal* provided advertizing support. Private citizen donor contributions, and additional donations from local businesses, go to cover operational expenses. In addition, a donation of \$800 was made to the Massachusetts Vest-A-Dog program to outfit Sylvia Toumayan’s new dog, Mikayel, with a ballistic vest.



*Circus Minimus provided much laughter at the Picnic-in-the-Park.*

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.



*Southern Rail Bluegrass Band playing at the Picnic-in-the-Park.*