

Funds totaling \$66,260.86 were received from the following sources: The Board of Selectman's Appeal donations designated for assistance with local property taxes and fuel assistance—\$23,615; the Concord Municipal Light Plant—\$26,000. Town of Concord Conserves—\$920 and \$15,725.86 from private donors. The generous contributions from these sources were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 175 grants totaling \$51,914.09. This figure represents an 11% increase over 2008. The average grant was \$300.00. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, and gas). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, medical expenses, phone service and insurance. The Committee also administered the abatement program for municipal curbside recycling and waste collection funded by Concord Public Works.

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. Two hundred and five awards totaling \$61,500 were approved. Fifty households benefited from the tax-relief program.

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee is the custodial accountant for the Concord Cares Fund. The Board of Selectmen, Town agencies and other agencies implemented the fund in 2008 to provide emergency fuel assistance as well as free weatherization services. Concord Cares received donations of \$14,077.56. Twelve emergency grants for fuel assistance were made totaling \$1,612.71. The grants are made primarily through the offices of the Community Services Coordinator and the Council on Aging in conjunction with the Town Manager's Office, Board of Health, and Public Safety Departments.

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 Concord-Carlisle Community Chest, Open Table, the Salvation Army, the *Concord Journal*, local clergy, and other groups.

In light of the continuing difficult economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2010 will be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations

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to continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to: The Hugh Cargill Trust, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

It was a time of transition for the Library Committee as Barbara Powell retired in the summer after many years of service. The new Library Director, Kerry Cronin, came to the library in August and the Library Committee has spent much of the fall helping Kerry adjust to her new role.

Amidst these changes, the Library Committee continued in its role of supporting the Library Director, meeting with the Library staff, assisting with exhibits, lectures, and presentations and outreach to Concord schools. Some highlights of 2009 include:

- Meeting with Karen Ahearn, Head of Children's Services, in which Karen highlighted the continued growth of the Library's summer reading program, the Summer Concerts series, the very successful Concord Reads event in March with its theme of "Food for Thought," and the Children's staff ongoing work with Concord elementary, middle and high schools.
- A visit to the Library Committee from Charlie Paige of CCTV, in which Charlie discussed how CCTV videotapes Library programs. Charlie is working with Caroline Nie, Head of Technical Services, on getting more high school volunteers involved in this process, with the long term prospect of having Library programs available as DVDs, on CCTV and the internet.
- Meeting with Curator of Special Collections, Lesley Perrin Wilson, who gave the Library Committee an in-depth outline of her activities including upcoming exhibitions, web activities, school programs, lectures, publications, preservation projects grant initiatives, and the oral history project.
- Working with the Library Director in updating some Library policies, such as the Safe Child Policy and the Direct-to-You Home Delivery Service Policy.
- Meeting at the Fowler Branch to continue planning for the renovations of the Fowler, the ramifications for Library staffing and a continuation of service in West Concord as the Fowler branch is renovated.
- Meeting with Caroline Nie, Head of Technical Services, who gave us an overview of her Department's work, such as adding 14,000 new items to the collection in FY '09, working on public wi-fi access, which increased to about

700 users per month, work on Town Energy Efficiency Team, work on a Non-Roman Language Indexing Grant Project.

As was stated by many publications throughout 2009, library usage increases during economic downturns. As you can see from the Library Facts at a Glance on page 116, this phenomenon is also true at the Concord Free Public Library; note the total circulation figure of 417,566 items, a new record! For the four-month period of July through October (compared with the same period in 2008), this increased usage of the Library's collection has continued with a 20% jump in checkouts

For those interested in learning more about the Library please go to www.concordlibrary.org, where you can sign up for the Library newsletter. Also, if you would like to know more about the work of the Library Committee, you may come to our meetings, which occur on the second Tuesday of the month @ 7:00p.m in the Library Director's office at the Main Library.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION



Kerry Cronin, Library Director

On August 3 I became the 10th Library Director in the Concord Free Public Library's 136 year history. It is very gratifying to oversee library services in a community that is so supportive of education, scholarship, and libraries. The remarkable history and literary traditions of Concord seem to touch upon all that we do, and account for the depth of our nationally recognized Special Collections. My colleagues both within the Library and throughout the Town have been very supportive in welcoming me to this new role. My sincere thanks to them and to all of our Library supporters During the fall, in an effort to meet more residents, I hosted

two Coffees with the Director at the Main and Fowler Branch Libraries. Based on feedback received during these conversations, we have begun writing a monthly Did You Know column in the *Concord Journal* to highlight new initiatives and showcase existing services. In 2010, we plan to survey community members directly to ensure that our planning efforts are aligned with customer preferences. Building on the Concord Free Public Library's tradition of success, I look forward to working with all of you, in partnership, to forge ahead in new ways in the continued delivery of dynamic library services to the Concord community.

Please enjoy the following report of the Concord Free Public Library's 2009 activities.

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT

There is a hum of activity in the Children's Room. Attendance at our many story times, drop-in reading sessions, pajama story times and monthly Toddler Sing-alongs continues to be strong. We have formed Book Discussion groups for readers of all levels. Kindergarten children attend the Special K reading group, children in grade 3 take part in the BookEaters program and readers in 4th and 5th grades attend the book group for their interest level. Teens can take part in the book discussion group held at the Fowler Library.

Visits from area school groups are always welcome, as outreach is a very important departmental goal. In 2009 we hosted visitors from the Leap School, the Concord Carousel, and the Concord Recreation Department, among others.

Art displays from area students adorned both the Children's Room and Teen areas. The middle school art class mounted numerous exhibits of students' work. Young artists and potters from local classes and students from A Place To Grow also exhibited their work.

The theme for this year's Concord Reads program was Concord Reads: Food For Thought. To tie in with this program, Gaining Ground tapped the trees on the front lawn of the Library and collected sap to boil into maple syrup, we collected food for Open Table's pantry, Concord artist Elizabeth Parisi led a group of teens in painting unglazed soup bowls, the Concord Garden Club presented a program on the basics of preparing a