



Many people enjoy the annual July 4 celebration, Picnic in the Park. Pictured above is the Concord Band playing at this summer's festivities.

The Picnic Committee organizes and obtains donations for the event, but it would not be possible to hold it without the invaluable assistance of the Town of Concord: Peter Flynn, Mick Hone and Marc Reardon from the Concord Public Works and Highway Departments provided valuable assistance for the booths setup and cleanup; the Concord Recreation Department provided walkie talkies; the Concord Light Plant set up the electric power.



The Concord Fire Department provided the popular "Burning House" with water hoses

The Concord Police Department provided security services and the radar baseball toss. Rebecca Purcell and Stephen Bader organized the Field Games, and Bruce Barker was the Master of Ceremonies for the entertainment and raffle. The US Army National Guard made the Armory available for additional rest rooms and a venue for the entertainment in case of rain. A number

of volunteers provided the assistance on the 4th that is essential in running the event. These tasks include selling tickets, supervising the Moon Walk, conducting the raffle, and holding the Hot Air Balloon tether ropes.

These corporate sponsors and private donors provided funds for the entertainment: Cambridge Trust Company, McWalter Volunteer Insurance, Concord Lumber, Reasons to be Cheerful, Nichols Insurance, Acton Toyota, Dunkin Donuts Concord, and Gloria and Chuck Clough.

We again had a fund-raising raffle with 15 wonderful prizes provided by local merchants. The following businesses also provided various forms of support: the Concord Bookshop, the Concord Funeral Home, Crosby's Marketplace, Emerson Umbrella for the Arts, and RE/MAX Walden Country. In general, private citizen donor contributions, and additional financial contributions from corporate sponsors, go 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. The Picnic Committee encourages the citizens of Concord to support Picnic-in-the-Park in terms of financial contributions and volunteer effort on the committee or during the day of the event.

PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Kevin Paulsen, Chair
 Michael Benn
 Joel Bohy
 Staci Bowen
 Claudia Curran
 Colleen Giddings
 Keith Nelms
 Dennon Rodrigue, Associate

This Committee has the responsibility of organizing, coordinating and managing the celebrations sponsored by the Town of Concord. Celebrations for 2012 included: Honored Citizen Ceremony, March 18; Meriam's Corner Exercise, April 7; Patriots' Day Parade, April 16; Dawn Salute, April 19; Memorial Day Ceremonies, May 28; Veteran's Day Flag Retirement, November 11. The observances are recorded in the photographs in this Annual Report.

HONORED CITIZEN

Each year since 1962, Concord has acknowledged the outstanding efforts of some very dedicated citizens at the Honored Citizen Celebration. The award to the Honoree is intangible --for the year of the honor, the citizen shall be the steward of the *Boston Post Cane*, and is invited to lead the Patriots Day Parade.



MERIAM CORNER

This commemoration marks the assembly and actions of militia and Minuteman units that arrived at Meriam's Corner during the British retreat from Concord, April 19th, 1775. After the Regulars' withdrawal from the North Bridge, they began a retreat back to Boston. By the time the Regulars arrived at this spot at half past noon, there were reported to be about 1,100 Minutemen in the area from more than a dozen towns.

PATRIOTS' DAY



The Patriots' Day Parade covers a route of approximately 2.5 miles. Participants include musicians, Minuteman companies, color guards, cultural and youth groups and dignitaries from neighboring towns, the State, the nation and several foreign countries with ties to Concord. At the North Bridge there is a ceremony to

commemorate the engagement between the Minuteman companies and British troops with a wreath laying ceremony. The parade, in which the Honored Citizen has a place of honor, continues across the North Bridge and returns to Concord Center.

DAWN SALUTE



Church bells at First Parish toll at 5:45AM to sound the alarm. "Dr. Prescott" arrives at the North Bridge after riding across the fields calling out the warning to towns and villages that the Regulars were on the march and their destination was Concord. The Concord Minutemen fire salutes and the Concord Independent Battery fires several volleys from the field at the Old Manse.

MEMORIAL DAY



For some, beginning in 1775 and continuing today, responding to the challenge of citizenship has meant a period of service in the Armed Forces. More than 1,400 men and women from Concord went to fight

in WWII and just about 300 each to Korea and to Viet Nam. Today, almost 1,000 veterans live in Concord. Memorial Day is Concord's opportunity to honor the men and women who served our community and our nation in these wars.

FLAG RETIREMENT

The Flag Retirement Ceremony is traditionally held each year on Veterans' Day and gives Concordians the opportunity to retire their American Flags in a respectful and appropriate manner.

The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee is grateful to the many who helped make the celebrations of 2012 so successful—Town officials, the staff of various Town departments, CCHS Music, the VFW, the American Legion, the Concord Minutemen, the Concord Independent Battery, Middlesex County 4H Fife & Drum Corps and all participants. Once again, many thanks to the supportive people of Concord, Massachusetts.

CONCORD-CARLISLE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Ronni Olitsky, Co-Chair
Sarah Napier, Co-Chair
Libby Kurten, Treasurer
Liz Clayton, Newsletter Editor
Lorell Gifford, Webmaster:

Website: cchumanrights.org

Formally established in 1979 as a 501c3, the Council has a membership of approximately 675 households in the Concord-Carlisle community, with an Executive Board that meets monthly.

The first event of our year was the January Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration held at the Willard School. The performers were the Holy Tabernacle Women's Ministry Choir, the Willard Fifth Grade Chorus, Boston Children's Choir and joining us for the first time, the Fenn School Chorus. The groups sang separately and together, their powerful voices joining with the audience to celebrate King's life and legacy.

In April, the Council again coordinated the Annual Holocaust Memorial on behalf of the Concord Board of Selectmen. The program featured Leon Rubinstein,

a Holocaust survivor, and his son, Concord resident Wade Rubinstein, reading from Leon's memoir "As I am Presently Known." Cantor Rosalie Gerut began the memorial observance with song.

This summer we ran a table and a game at the Picnic-in-the Park as we do every summer. Events like this are a good way to educate Concord citizens about our work.

Our annual Human Rights Day Breakfast was held on Monday, December 3 at the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

This is the year that we give our Biannual Climate for Freedom Award to a group or organization in our community, one that fosters a climate for freedom in its work and mission. A committee of five worked to gather updated information on the main organizations being considered for this year's award. The finalists were forwarded to a panel of panel of judges, whose deliberations resulted in a recommendation to the HRC Board. The recipient this year was Communities for Restorative Justice for their work to build a community-police partnership that offers restorative justice to those affected by crime. Their mission states that their process "recognizes that crime is a violation of people and relationships, not just a violation of the law." This award is a richly deserved recognition of the importance of their mission. Executive Director Jennifer Larson-Sawin, received the award and was the keynote speaker.

Apart from these annual events, sub-committees of the Council have been busy. Danae Laura, Charisse Gilmer, and Cherisa Hernandez have led efforts to establish a METCO Scholarship Fund in memory of Abdirauaf Abdullahi, a METCO CCHS graduate who was shot to death in a random shooting just weeks before heading off to college. The aim is to raise \$20,000 for an endowment to be put into the CCHS Scholarship Fund, and used for METCO students who gain entry to college. The fund exceeded its goal in 2012 and they plan to apply for a matching grant in 2013. See more at www.theabbyfund.org

We are also beginning to plan what we hope will be a series of workshops in conjunction with the Concord Police Department and local business leaders with a focus on "cultural proficiency." The goal of the workshops will be to critically examine how we--people of