

recently as volunteer coordinator. Rebecca Purcell, who continues as the Friends hospitality coordinator, retired as President. In Rebecca's honor, the Friends purchased two additional museum passes for the Library: Museum of Science for Fowler and Zoo New England for the Main Library.

In May 2010, the Friends will celebrate 40 years of supporting the Library. If you love the Library, there are many volunteer opportunities, large and small. Volunteers sort donated books for sale; usher and sell books at concerts and author events; create music, film, poetry, and author programs; organize, publicize, set up and staff the book sales; and handle publicity, marketing, membership, database management, and finances.

As part of Concord's 375th anniversary in fall 2010, the Friends will publish a new edition of *Historic Concord & the Lexington Fight: a Step By Step Guide to the Battlefields and to the Later Literary Concord*, revised and updated by Leslie Perrin Wilson, Curator of Special Collections.

To keep up with Friends activities, you can follow the Friends on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn as well as at www.concordlibraryfriends.org. Everyone is welcome. To volunteer or learn more, email friends@concordlibrary.org.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

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This year was marked by honoring the past and preparing for the future. In June, the Library community celebrated the many gifts given to Concord by Barbara Powell during her thirty years as Library Director. At a festive retirement dinner, speaker after speaker noted Barbara's dedication to the Library and to the Town. Her intellectual prowess and her fierce determination to maintain the highest standards of service benefited the community in myriad ways. The

gala celebration captured her spirit perfectly.

After a national search, Town Manager Chris Whelan appointed Kerry Cronin as the new Library Director. Kerry began her duties in August and has thrown herself enthusiastically into all the activities which make this Library unique.

The Trustees of the Library Corporation voted to proceed with the Fowler Branch renovation and expansion. Early fund-raising efforts were positive enough to indicate that we could raise the \$3,500,000 necessary to undertake the project. The likelihood that construction costs will rise in the coming years from their current lows has caused the Board to push hard to get started. The West Concord community has been very enthusiastic about this refurbishing of the Fowler Branch. They are excited about a new and expanded Children's Room and a new large community meeting room, and they have embraced the beautiful design for a glass-fronted stairwell by J. Stuart Roberts, our architect, who also designed the highly successful renovation of the Main Branch.

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

The primary task of the Trustees is to maintain the two library buildings – the Main Library in Concord Center and Fowler Branch in West Concord. This year we were able to also support library services financially with funds totaling over \$100,000.

2009 was a full year, and 2010 promises to be equally exciting as we work to support the activities of the libraries and as we undertake a physical rebirth of the Fowler Branch.