



CONCORD MUSEUM

WINTER 2022 Newsletter

Published quarterly for Members and Friends of the Museum

A CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Concord Museum's 27th Annual Family Trees

Join the Concord Museum to celebrate the *27th Annual Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature* opening to the public on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 through Monday, January 2, 2023. Admire 34 fancifully decorated holiday trees and wreaths inspired by acclaimed works of children's literature and crafted by dedicated volunteer decorators.

Family Trees has been a tradition for visitors to the Concord Museum for over 27 years. Over the years, families have encountered over 850 stories come to life from the page, creating wonder, excitement, and a love of books and reading in young visitors. *Family Trees* brings so many people together—grandparents connecting with grandchildren to read favorite books, friends enjoying a holiday outing, and students and teachers sharing in the joy of learning to read.



Sy Montgomery—Photo by Vicki Stiefel

This year's book list was carefully selected by a team of Guild volunteers, Museum staff, librarians, and local authors to create a rich variety of classic stories and brand-new books. A big thank you to the librarians at the Alcott, Willard, and Thoreau Schools, the librarians from the Children's Room at the Concord Free Public Library, retired librarians Karen Ahearn and Fayth Chamberlain, and especially to *Family Trees* creator Carol Haines who helped guide us through the book selection from retirement!

Many local and nationally known authors participate in *Family Trees* each year. This year, we are thrilled to announce that award-winning author and naturalist Sy Montgomery is serving as the 2022 Honorary Chair of *Family Trees*. Sy has been described by the New York Times as "equal parts poet and scientist" and by the Boston Globe as "Part Indiana Jones and part Emily Dickinson". One of the most celebrated writers of our time, she has been awarded the Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award for her contributions to children's literature and has been a finalist for the National Book Award and an international bestseller for her work in adult nonfiction. Sy's recently published children's book

Becoming a Good Creature is featured in this year's celebration. Don't miss An Afternoon with Authors and Illustrators on Sunday December 4 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. to meet many of this year's talented book creators.

We are so grateful to our Guild of Volunteers and community partners who make this incredible event happen. A special thank you to Guild member Pam Nelson for her hard work supporting our staff in creating this special annual celebration and for managing the many volunteer decorators involved with *Family Trees*. And finally, the Museum is grateful to the dedicated volunteer decorators who create the whimsical trees and wreaths that are displayed each year.

See page 4 for *Family Trees* Programs.



Family Trees at
the Concord Museum

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From Lisa Krassner, Edward W. Kane Executive Director

I am so very grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the Museum's members and friends since joining the Concord Museum in September as the new Edward W. Kane Executive Director. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at our fall programs and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming winter events.

There is much to look forward to at the Museum this season. You won't want to miss our current special exhibit which opened to high acclaim from the Boston Globe: "*The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated*, at the Concord Museum, observes the centennial of an American temple of democracy." The beloved annual *Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature* event is returning for the holiday season through January 2. And mark your calendars for the 12th Annual Holiday House Tour on December 3 when Concord's holiday charm will be on full display in these festive, unique houses.

As we emerge from the pandemic, our classrooms are once again full of visiting school children. Our Paul Revere's Ride Fund underwrites our partnership with the public school systems in Lowell and Lawrence to bring high quality history education to their students. This holiday season, please consider a gift to this Fund to support transportation and program expenses so that over 3,500 students a year can immerse themselves in a stimulating learning experience at the Museum free of charge.

Thank you so very much for your continued generosity, and I hope you will visit us often this season to see all that your support of the Museum makes possible.



Welcome Rachel Bram—New Archives Intern

The Collections Department is pleased to welcome our new fall 2022 Archives Intern, Rachel Bram. Rachel is currently completing her master's degree in History and Library Information Science (MLIS) with a concentration in Archives at Simmons University. Prior to her current positions as both an Interpreter in the Concord Museum galleries and intern in our archives, Rachel worked at the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association and Lafayette College Special Collections cataloging archival collections and assisting researchers. As part of her internship, Rachel will be processing and digitizing over 1,500 documents and photographs related to the archaeological collections housed at the Museum. These documents include extensive files from Benjamin L. Smith, a local amateur archaeologist and founding member of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. The Smith collection contains catalogs, field and research notes, photographs, negatives, glass lantern slides, and correspondences relating to his collecting and research in Concord, surrounding towns, and Maine. This work will contribute to the Museum's continuing initiatives towards the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act while also allowing this information to be more widely known and available to researchers and Indigenous communities. Rachel will also work towards processing the Munroe family collection of account books and documents from the Munroe pencil factory, one of the few known collections to document an early factory in the region. Rachel's work on these collections will be invaluable for expanding their use in research and exhibitions.



Rachel Bram cataloguing archival collections in the Lisa H. Foote History Learning Center.

Special Exhibition: The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated

The Concord Museum's latest special exhibition, *The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated*, opened on September 30th and is on view through February 26, 2023. Developed by the Norman Rockwell Museum in collaboration with Chesterwood, this exhibition celebrates the centennial of the Lincoln Memorial, which was dedicated in May 1922. Featuring a wide range of paintings, illustrations, sculptures, and ephemera from the past century, the exhibition highlights the significance of the Lincoln Memorial as a backdrop for artists contemplating Lincoln's legacy, social justice, and the nation.

Designed by architect Henry Bacon and Concord sculptor Daniel Chester French, the Lincoln Memorial was one of the last commissions of French's career. French's nearly fifty-year artistic career is bracketed by two of the most familiar public sculptures in the United States: the Minute Man at the North Bridge in Concord and the Seated Lincoln in Washington, D.C.

The exhibition invites visitors to consider these connections across French's career and the place of monuments in civic life. The contemporary works featured in the exhibition reveal the broader impact French's work has had on generations of artists over the past century.

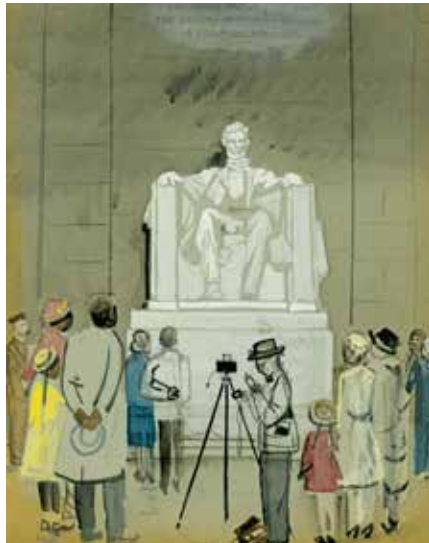


Image Credit: Stevan Dohanos (1907–1994), *Lincoln Memorial*, n.d. Norman Rockwell Museum Collection, Museum Purchase from the Dohanos Family, NRM.2015.22.04.

Collections Feature: Concord's Ice Age

This photograph of a horse-drawn ice sled from the Museum's permanent collections captures the rise of the ice industry in Concord during the nineteenth century. The ice trade arrived at Walden Pond in the 1840s. Many workers were recent immigrants from Ireland who performed the tedious labor of removing blocks of ice using picks and saws. Transported by wagon and railroad car, the harvested ice was used as an early method of refrigeration.

From his Walden cabin, Henry David Thoreau witnessed the increased activity at Walden Pond and marveled at the transformation of the pond into a frozen block of ice. "Like the water," he wrote in *Walden*, "the Walden ice, seen near at hand, has a green tint, but at a distance is beautifully blue, and you can easily tell it from the white ice of the river, or the merely greenish ice of some ponds, a quarter of a mile off. Sometimes one of those great cakes slips from the ice-man's sled into the village street, and lies there for a week like a great emerald, an object of interest to all passers."



Image Credit: Edward Roberts, Photograph of Horse-Drawn Ice Sled, Concord Museum Collections, Gift of Mrs. Russell Robb, Sr; B0352.0010.

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Concord Museum Public Programs and Forums—Winter 2022-2023

Public programming is in-person this winter, unless otherwise noted.
Register for programs at concordmuseum.org or by calling 978-369-9763.



DECEMBER

Family Trees at the Concord Museum A Celebration of Children's Literature

An Afternoon with Authors and Illustrators

Sunday, December 4 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum | Free with Museum Admission | Members visit free

Meet some of the accomplished authors and illustrators whose books are featured in *Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature*. Explore the decorated forest of trees throughout the Museum and visit with authors and illustrators as they sign your books.

Bioblitz!: Counting Critters Drop-In Family Program

Saturday, December 10 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum Admission | Members visit free

Read *Bioblitz!: Counting Critters* and create your own bug to take home.

Holiday Members' Night

Wednesday, December 14 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Free Event for Concord Museum Members

Celebrate the winter season with an evening of viewing *Family Trees* and enjoying festive libations and treats. Enjoy discounted holiday shopping in the Museum's Shop. This special event is open to members of the Concord Museum.

Costume Character Day

Saturday, December 17 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Free with Museum Admission | Members visit free

Come by the Concord Museum to meet the Grinch! Your heart will grow three sizes when you meet Dr. Seuss's famous holiday character. Visitors can meet the Grinch and hear the story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Memory Jar Drop-In Family Program

Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum Admission | Members visit free

Read the book *Creating a Memory Jar*, explore its Family Tree, and add to the Concord Museum's memory jar.



Shawn Fields and Linda Booth Sweeney



JANUARY

Liberty and Loyalty: Embroidered Coats of Arms in an Age of Revolution

Tuesday, January 10 | 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. | Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum and Lisa H. Foote History Learning Center | Free Member | \$10 Non-Member

Erica Lome, PhD, Associate Curator at Historic New England, uses needlework from the Concord Museum's collection as a starting point to survey the history of embroidered coats of arms worked in Boston in the late 18th century. Join us to hear stories about needlework, women, family, and legacy in an age of Revolution.



Erica Lome

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Reckoning with Monuments in the North: A Conversation with W. Ralph Eubanks

Wednesday, January 18 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum and Livestreamed | Free Member | \$10 Non-Member | Free Virtual

Award-winning author W. Ralph Eubanks joins us for a wide-ranging conversation on historic memorials that obscure the achievements of Black Americans in the American North and his recently published book on the landscape and literature of his homeland *A Place Like Mississippi*.

Lincoln Memorial Illustrated Family Drop-In Program

Saturday, January 21 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum admission | Members visit free

Drop by the Concord Museum's Lyceum to learn about monuments and leaders through sculpture and drawing.

Saving Yellowstone: A Conversation with Megan Kate Nelson

Tuesday, January 24 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum and Livestreamed | Free Member | \$10 Non-Member | Free Virtual

Pulitzer Prize finalist and Civil War historian Megan Kate Nelson tells the vivid story of how, 150 years ago, Yellowstone became the world's first national park amid the nationwide turmoil and racial violence of the Reconstruction era.

FEBRUARY

February School Vacation Week

Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum admission | Members visit free

Visit new galleries during February vacation week and drop by the Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum for family activities.

A Visit with President Lincoln

Monday, February 20 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Free with Museum admission | Members visit free

The Museum is pleased to again host Steve Wood and his amazing performance as Abraham Lincoln. Wood's first-person historical interpretation, "A Visit with President Lincoln," includes stories of Lincoln's early life, campaign debates, the Civil War, and concludes with a stirring reading of the Gettysburg Address.

Sweet History: Colonial Chocolate

Thursday, February 23 | 10:00 am – 4:00 p.m. | Free with Museum admission | Members visit free

Immerse yourself in the colonial home as a living historian grinds cocoa beans, adds spices and concocts delicious treats by the winter hearth. Read a colonial recipe or "receipt" and decipher the steps to cooking rare delicacies in colonial Concord.

COMING THIS WINTER

Revolution in Women's Athletics Rebels and Revolutionaries Speaker Series

New date coming soon | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. followed by a ticketed reception with the speakers | Members: Adult \$25 Student \$15 | Non-Members: Adult \$30 Student \$20 | Ticket and Reception: Member \$75 Non-Member \$85

To launch the Rebels and Revolutionaries speaker series, Olympians AJ Mleczko Griswold and Angela Ruggiero will discuss their experiences as elite athletes, the journey from the locker room to the board room, and the odds-defying leadership and perseverance that led to outstanding careers on the ice and beyond.

Co-sponsored by the Concord Contemporaries, a dynamic group of Museum enthusiasts, supporters, and advocates, ages 30 – 60.



W. Ralph Eubanks



Megan Kate Nelson



Steve Wood



Above: Angela Ruggiero
At left: AJ Mleczko Griswold

Local History Professional Development for Concord Educators

This school year the Concord Museum is honored to run a three-part professional development workshop organized for K-12 teachers and staff in the Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle High School. In each session, participants will learn about a different period in the town's history with a focus on lesser-known stories. Our first session took place in October with Wampanoag educator Linda Coombs who has worked at the Boston Children's Museum and as the head of the Native homesite at the Plimoth Patuxet Museum. Linda led the educators in a critical reading activity to examine the accuracy and quality of sources about Native history. The group discussed best practices for vocabulary and the importance of reading sources by Native authors. In the Concord Museum's galleries, the educators learned about the history of Native peoples who have been living on this land for thousands of years.



Teachers and staff from the Concord Public Schools work with Wampanoag Educator Linda Coombs in the Museum's Rasmussen Education Center.

Holiday House Tour

Celebrate the season at the 12th Annual Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 3! Coordinated by the Museum's Guild of Volunteers, this year's in-person tour will feature a variety of beautifully decorated indoor and outdoor spaces that are sure to delight and inspire. Concord's holiday charm will be on full display in these unique settings, with the magic of twinkling lights and richness of abundant greens enhanced by the seasonal atmosphere. Gather your friends and bundle up to enjoy this one-of-a-kind holiday tour! For tickets and more information visit concordmuseum.org.



Allison Shilling Elected to the NEMA Board

At the New England Museum Association's (NEMA) annual meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts, Allison Shilling, Senior Program Officer, was elected to the NEMA Board of Directors. Allison will represent the Concord Museum and serve NEMA in its efforts to connect the region with learning, collaboration, and action, to cultivate a better museum world. At the annual meeting, Allison said of her election, "NEMA plays an essential role in connecting and advancing Museums across New England. I am honored to contribute to the organization at a critical moment in the history of museums as we strive to create spaces for engagement, learning, and inspiration for all." Allison's three-year term began on November 4.

Special Holiday Shopping

The Concord Museum Shop is ready for the holidays! Visit us for special gifts this holiday season and explore our seasonal inventory. Members receive 10% off Museum merchandise.

Small Business Saturday with Just Rosy Co.

Saturday, November 26 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Visit the Concord Museum's Brooke Hall to shop Just Rosy's collection of dainty-yet-durable minimalist style jewelry, created from precious metals and ethically sourced gemstones. Each piece is handcrafted with traditional metalsmith techniques in Groton, MA.

Pop-up Shop with Lexington Bee Company

Saturday, November 26 | 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Visit Brooke Hall to shop a variety of locally made honey products, including honey hot chocolate and honey Christmas soaps.



Award recipient Jim Hollister poses with Simone Monteleone, Superintendent, Minute Man National Historical Park; Anna Rasmussen, Board of Governors; Robert Gross, Trustee; and Lisa Krassner, Edward W. Kane Executive Director.

2022 Concord Museum Robert Gross Award for Advancing Concord's History

This fall, the Concord Museum honored educator and historian Jim Hollister with the Museum's *Robert Gross Award*. Jim is a Park Ranger at Minute Man National Historical Park where he has spent many years educating the public and fellow historians about the history of Concord and the town's role on April 19, 1775. *The Robert Gross Award for Advancing Concord's History* was established by the Concord Museum in 2019 to honor an educator, scholar, museum professional, or community leader who has worked to expand the circle of individuals who benefit from Concord's history and to make this history, which the Museum chronicles, more dynamic and inclusive. The award is named in honor of historian Robert Gross—Concord Museum Trustee and author of *The Minutemen and Their World* and *The Transcendentalists and Their World*—whose scholarship has advanced the world's understanding of the unique role Concord has played in our nation's history.



Students discuss how dug-out mishoons (canoes) are made during the Museum's program on Native history through archaeology.

Back to School for Paul Revere's Ride Fund

This fall, the Education Department welcomed the entire Lowell third grade to the Concord Museum in-person for the first time thanks to the Museum's Paul Revere's Ride Fund. Working with the Lowell third grade is a newer aspect of the Museum's school partnerships, which started in the fall of 2020 with only virtual programs. The teachers and students were so excited for what is the first field trip ever for most of the students, including many who are English language learners. Teachers were thrilled to see some of the students participating in ways they have not been in the classroom all year, and many students exclaimed, "This is the best field trip ever!" We hope that this visit starts them off on a lifelong love of Museums!

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated
September 30, 2022–February 26, 2023

WINTER HOURS

December

Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed December 24-25

January-February

Thursday-Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Open all Monday holidays

CONTACT

978-369-9763

cm1@concordmuseum.org

www.concordmuseum.org

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Give the Gift of Membership for the Holidays!

This holiday season, support the Concord Museum by giving the gift of membership for a year of inspiring, informative, and creative experiences for someone in your life. Visit <https://concordmuseum.org/support/join/gift-membership/> Or contact Allison Shilling, Senior Program Officer, at 978.369.9763 ext. 238 or ashilling@concordmuseum.org.

Group Tours

Group Tours are a perfect family outing and a great way to share Concord's history with friends. Pair your Special Exhibit Tour with a trip through Family Trees this winter. Members enjoy deep discounts on Group Tours, and you can always save on admission for guests by booking a self-guided tour. Inquiries: please email grouptours@concordmuseum.org or call Joe Rynasko, the Visitor Services Associate, at 978-369-9763 ext. 239.