Most Memorable Reads of 2018
As recommended by members of the CLA Executive Board

From Chris Hemingway
Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring Connecticut by Martin Podskoch
I had the pleasure of being a contributing author (along with others) for this comprehensive guide to Connecticut covering all 169 towns. The book highlights points of interest, travel suggestions, and fun facts, along with a rich, detailed history of Connecticut that many of us never knew before. A great book to teach kids about Connecticut!

From Erin Shea
Brass by Xhenet Aliu
Elsie works as a waitress at the Betsy Ross diner in Waterbury, CT when she meets Bashkim, a handsome, chain-smoking Albanian immigrant who will soon alter the course of her life. In a parallel narrative set seventeen years later, her daughter Luljeta seeks to uncover details of the man who fathered her, hoping this information will give some direction to her own uncertain future. A memorable and captivating debut.

From Allison Murphy
The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.
An emotionally disturbed Vietnam vet returns from the war and moves his wife and daughter to Alaska to live off the grid in the beauty of this remote land. The physical demands of living in Alaska are hard enough, but no match for the psychological challenges the father presents to his family. Romance, adventure, and the strong bonds of women create a page-turner that will leave you shocked and gratified.

From Brittany Pearson
The Hazel Wood by Melissa Albert
Warning: This book will not leave you with a good feeling. Which is why it is the most memorable book I read this year. The uneasiness left behind in the wake of this book is why you should read it. When fairy tales (stolen by her grandmother and surrounded with cult-like fans) meet with her reality (consisting mostly of her mother and constantly being on the run), Alice starts a journey searching for mom into her grandmother’s created world and finding out more about herself then she ever wanted to know.
Retirements

In the past 3 months, there have been several significant retirements and retirement announcements in the Connecticut library community. These include two former CLA presidents (Betty Anne and Jay) and the long-time children’s services consultant for the State Library (Linda.) To celebrate their careers and contributions not only to CLA but the entire Connecticut library community and beyond, we interviewed Betty Anne Reiter, recently retired from the Groton Public Library; Jay Johnston, soon to be retired from the Farmington Libraries; and Linda Williams, soon to be retired from the CT State Library. Read about their professional accomplishments, their connections with CLA, and their plans for the future.

Betty Anne Reiter, Groton Public Library

Can you tell us 2 or 3 of the accomplishments you are most proud of during your career?

One Book, One Region, eastern Connecticut’s community reading project, started here at GPL 16 years ago. Chris Bradley, then SECLA director, and I called a meeting of local educators and librarians to gauge their interest in the project and we were off – we always look for a book that will bring the community together to discuss ideas; broaden the appreciation of reading; and break down barriers among community members. Over the years, we have tackled important topics – immigration, criminal justice, the Holocaust, health care in Haiti, and much more with authors like Khaled Hosseini, Bryan Stevenson, Geraldine Brooks, Yaa Gyasi and Mohsin Hamid. Three years ago, we joined forces with Connecticut College. The One Book is now required reading for their incoming first-year students. The community and students gather at the end of September to meet the author. I’ve loved watching this grow over the years, listening to the stories from readers about the impact one of our choices has had on their life.

I’m proud of the dedicated and committed staff we have assembled at GPL. Despite budget cuts, they continue to find ways to expand our reach in the community. We collaborate with dozens of agencies to bring the library to nursery schools and day care centers, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, playgrounds and the beach. Coding camps, job club, Jazz at Lincoln Center Concerts, sing and stomp, homeschool art – it all happens here. I love having a staff that isn’t afraid to try something new. All of our programs may not be successful, but we learn from it and move on to the next idea!

How has your involvement with CLA made a difference to you?

Being involved in CLA made a huge difference in my career. The most obvious benefit is meeting and learning from colleagues across the state. You always have someone to call on when a question arises in your library. You learn that you are not alone!

Being involved in CLA made a huge difference in my career. The most obvious benefit is meeting and learning from colleagues across the state. You always have someone to call on when a question arises in your library. You learn that you are not alone!
Message from the President

Getting Over Advocacy Awkwardness

If you’ve met me, you know I’m a happy “schmoozer,” pleased to chat with anyone, but I have to confess that there are times when I just feel, well, awkward. Surprisingly, that feeling happens regularly when I’m trying to advocate for libraries one-on-one. I suspect I am not alone in my awkwardness. I think it boils down to this: while no one really admits to disliking libraries, lots of people are perfectly comfortable asking if libraries are still relevant. So I stiltedly talk about Internet access, e-books, 3-D printers and equitable access to technology, hoping something will stick, when really, I should just say, “Tell me what you’re concerned about, what you’re excited about; then just come in and see what we’re doing. It’ll blow you away.”

When I have the “prop” of an actual, living, breathing library, I am not awkward and I advocate with passion. With a new governor and many freshman legislators headed to Hartford in the new year, it’s time to get over our own advocacy awkwardness.

Two recent Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) surveys identified an awkward disconnect between library directors and Friends groups. Library directors ranked advocacy from their Friends group as equally important as financial support, while Friends saw advocacy as a lesser role. A third survey showed that half of the libraries with advocacy plans don’t include their Friends group in that plan! It’s understandable, given the constant pressure of ongoing management of book sale donations and other fundraising activities, and the ebb and flow of budget cycles at the local, state, and federal levels. It probably feels like too much. I think both libraries and Friends groups feel awkward about advocacy, so many don’t regularly plan on doing it. But like playing the piano, advocacy skills grow with regular practice.

Over the past eight years the State Library’s budget has been cut by a third—reducing, threatening, or ending vital support services for libraries of all kinds. The state’s budget crisis is as urgent as ever, with a projected deficit of over a billion dollars next year, and over two billion in the following year. Continued cuts in state support for libraries will reduce Connecticut’s share of matching funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), thus beginning a vicious cycle that further reduced library funding. That would be really awkward.

At the national level, the White House has zeroed out IMLS’s federal funding in its last two budget proposals but effective advocacy and broad bipartisan support have preserved and even increased that funding. A Kentucky legislator noted that he had long since learned not to touch library funding as he would hear all about it if he did. Both Sen. Chris Murphy and Sen. Richard Blumenthal supported reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act at the end of November and the measure seems likely to pass both the Senate and House. An easy piece of advocacy would be to drop a quick thank-you note in the mail to the senators—it will matter to them and will deepen their support down the road—and it won’t feel awkward.

Here in Connecticut, we saw many legislative retirements and upsets in
Movin’ On Up!

from the Career Development Committee

Q I just got a job as a library manager. What is some advice you could give me to help in the transition from my current job as a librarian?

A From Laura Horn, director of operations at the Farmington Libraries

Delegation is essential to being an effective and successful leader. When you delegate, you are telling your team that you recognize their unique skills, and trust their judgment. It also frees you to take care of things that cannot be done by anyone else. Unfortunately, delegation is not something that many of us were taught how to do before becoming leaders. Where you used to be responsible only for completing the tasks assigned to you, now you are responsible for assigning tasks to ensure that your team has adequate work. The good news is, delegation is a learned skill, and is not that difficult once you get the hang of it.

Learning what to delegate, who to delegate to, and teaching them how to do the job at hand does take time, but as a leader, this is where your time and effort should be focused. To get started, come up with a list of things you currently do. What do you really need to do? What can be done by someone else? Next, meet with each of your staff one-on-one to learn their strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes. Use the information you gather to make a plan for delegating day-to-day tasks, and to determine who to ask for help with special projects or initiatives.

Once you’ve created a plan, have a discussion with your entire team. Let them know that you are going to start delegating more. Your goal is not only to free up more of your time to be the leader you know you can be, but to give your staff the opportunity to build and expand their skill set. You will be assigning responsibilities based on department needs, as well as individual strengths and interests. You will provide all the training and support necessary to ensure that

Do you have a question about your career that you would like to see answered in the next issue of CLA Today? Send it to: editor@ctlibraryassociation with “Movin on Up” in the subject line.
From Glenn Grube  
*Mother American Night: My Life and Crazy Times* by John Perry Barlow

It seems that writing some of the most memorable Grateful Dead songs ever wasn’t even the most interesting part of John Perry Barlow’s life. Between dealing drugs, almost becoming a suicide bomber, running a cattle ranch, and founding the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Barlow had time to have long, complicated friendships with people such as JFK Jr., Timothy Leary, Steve Jobs, and Dick Cheney.

The chapters are brisk, and the tone of reflection is poignant considering Barlow died days after finishing the epilogue.

From Ramona Burkey  
*Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts* by Brene’ Brown

“A leader is anyone who takes responsibility for recognizing the potential in people and ideas, and has the courage to develop that potential.” A must-read for anyone in a leadership position (basically everyone, in one shape or another). Brown’s latest work explores the meaning of courageous leadership and its connection to embracing vulnerability. Inspiring and touching, this quick read will give you that professional boost you might need right now -- and it’s way cheaper than attending a conference.

From Matt Earls  
*Red Mars* by Kim Stanley Robinson

The Chinese are investing heavily on the Moon and creating infrastructure while the Americans and Europeans are still in the 20th Century. An American technician gets caught up in the middle of a murder investigation and winds up being part of a global revolution involving a Chinese Tiger, a hidden colony and a Zen poet.

From Christy Billings:  
*Educated* by Tara Westover.

I could not put it down. Can you imagine going into a classroom and hearing that an entire group disagrees on something you have “known” your whole life to be a truth? From your perspective, imagine hearing that the world is really flat, not round, or that dinosaurs do not exist. What would your feelings be? This is the experience of 17-year-old Tara Westover, at Brigham Young University. Prior to entering college, she had no formal classroom experience. Tara’s family felt that the government, schools, doctors and hospitals, and organized medicine were not to be trusted.

From Jennifer Rummel  
*Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison

I loved this book from the stunning art work to the important woman it highlighted. Plus this author illustrator will be a keynote speaker at CLA 2019 conference. I can’t wait to meet her.

From Susan Ray  
*The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright

This book was inspired by the documentary *The River of Victory*, the largest dump in Cambodia called Strung Meanchey. It follows the lives of husband and wife Sang Ly and Ki Lim and their sickly child Nisay. Both are illiterate and have no expectations of improving their situation. One person they dread seeing is Sopeap Sin, a drunken old woman who gruffly collects their monthly rent. The story really begins when Sopeap spies a book Ki found among the trash and brings home. Everything changes when Sang Ly unexpectedly discovers that the rent collector was once a teacher at the university. The young mother persuades her to give her reading lessons and, little by little, the two form a powerful bond. Wright alludes to the horrendous consequences of the Cambodian genocide under the dictator, Pol Pot, and the Khmer Rouge. A powerful depiction of a stark and forbidding lifestyle that many never see.
Congratulations!

Dr. Linda E. Robinson, coordinator of library/media services, Mansfield Middle School, was named one of 10 “I Love My Librarian” award winners for 2018. She joins a long list of former CT winners, including: Diane Brown, Elizabeth Rumery, Rachel Hyland, Rae Ann Locke, Jennifer Keohane and Michelle Luhtala.

From the “I Love My Librarian” website:

*Linda’s efforts have built a strong community of readers*

Linda cultivates a love of literacy and learning in students through creative programming. She has developed a strong school library program to ensure her students have the best chance to succeed.

One such program is the One School, One Read initiative which encourages staff and students to read a book together. Linda helps to bring each book to life with a lunch-time celebration with a meal that reflects the book’s setting, staff dressing up as characters and putting up decorations and playing music from the time period.

Linda has two dogs that are trained as therapy and certified reading dogs. Her dogs come to the library to help students who are struggling with anxiety or those who have disabilities. The dogs also have Twitter accounts for making book recommendations.

To keep students reading during the summer months, she brings a school bus full of books for all ages to different neighborhoods, including underserved areas. The bus makes visits three days a week throughout the summer months so children can continue to read and learn. The books reach families who can’t always make it to the public library.

Dr. Linda E. Robinson full nomination (PDF)
new trends and services. My involvement also forced me to become more aware of budgetary decisions made at the state level. I learned the importance of becoming an advocate for the state budget since it directly impacts each public library. CLA was also a springboard to involvement in ACLPD and CT Humanities which led to additional connections with colleagues and a better awareness of broader library issues. We all talk about how difficult it is to spare staff so they can get out of the library, but those hours away from the building are invaluable!

**What will you miss/not miss about your job?**

I’ll miss the people – staff and patrons – who have made coming to work a joy for 37 years.

I won’t miss the crazy complaints – someone is breathing too noisily in the quiet study area, the chairs are too hard, why don’t we get rid of all computers in the children’s area, a request that we set our scanner on fire – you get the idea!

I’m also very cleverly retiring just before the start of budget season. Always a challenge!

**What fun plans do you have?**

Travel is always at the top of our list. We leave for our fourth visit to Africa the day after I retire – this time staying in South Africa, visiting three different safari camps in remote areas of the country and balancing that with winery tours and great dining in Cape Town.

I also look forward to spending more time with our three grandchildren in Maine and Washington, D.C.

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**Jay Johnston, Farmington Libraries**

**Can you tell us 2 or 3 of the accomplishments you are most proud of during your career?**

The library board, after a 3-year exhaustive study, voted to adopt Koha, an open source library information system, that rolled out in July 2010, and remarkably improved services while it netted a savings of $408,800 through July 2018.

In 2016 we celebrated the Maker Space grand opening. And, in 2017, the grand opening of The Studio, a space for virtual reality and experiential learning, which helped bring us into the 21st century.

While the 2016 Adult Services interior landscaping project redesigned our spaces for the millennium. In 2018, the installation of a new elevator, scheduled for completion in December, will ensure safe transit to those requiring vehicular assistance to the second level of the main library.

**How has your involvement with CLA made a difference to you?**

As a current CLA member I have enjoyed a 46-year affiliation, during which time I met many great colleagues and associates; was elected NELA representative, CLA president, CLA legislative chair, ALA councilor, and served as chair of the reference and adult services committee in 1973. Each of these experiences afforded tremendous opportunities, and I am grateful to have had those experiences CLA has provided to me.

**What will you miss/not miss about your job?**

The people! I love people and have had the good fortune to have worked with the best possible people throughout my career, especially now, here at Farmington Libraries, where I have the good fortune to work with a fantastic team of professionals. I shall miss each of them tremendously.

**What fun plans do you have?**

Since I have worked so long and enjoyed library life so much, I am looking forward to continuing to travel with my wife and family and developing the beginning of a management consultancy practice where I hope to meet and help library directors, boards, and librarians to solve a variety of problems, and to become more confident and proficient in their work.

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**CONTINUED FROM P. 2**

**CONTINUED ON P. 8**
Linda Williams, CT State Library

Can you tell us 2 or 3 of the accomplishments you are most proud of during your career?
First thing I got to do when I got the job in 1998 was to be one of two librarian members of the State Department of Education’s Early Reading Success Panel. I learned so much and helped to write Connecticut’s Blueprint for Reading Achievement.

I helped to get the State Department of Education’s Governor’s Summer Reading Program more connected to public library summer reading programs, and compile their five leveled annual summer reading lists.

I discovered CSLP (Collaborative Summer Library Program) at an ALA annual and helped to get Connecticut added as a member.

I feel that one of my biggest strengths was to be open and connected to Connecticut’s children’s and YA services library communities.

How has your involvement with CLA made a difference to you?
It has kept me in the loop and connected to the profession. I chaired the YA Section committees for two terms, and am currently working on getting an LGBTQIA+ section added to CLA.

What will you miss/not miss about your job?
The reason why I decided to retire was the commute. Everything else I will miss! I have loved all my contact with the librarians in Connecticut, and I will really miss that the most.

What fun plans do you have?
I plan to stay connected to the library community, looking for part time work closer to home in Eastern Connecticut. Immediately, I am going to be filling in at the Wallingford Public Library one day a week in the children’s department. I am really excited about that because I have not worked with the public in 20 years!

News from around the State

The Danbury Library proudly unveils its newest free service in the form of a self-contained meeting pod. The Danbury Library is the only library in the United States to have the Hush Meeting Pod, which was designed by the Mikomax Smart Office, a Polish based company, and sold by Insidesource.

Anjul Chandi, Sales & Marketing Manager of Mikomax US, says, “Hush booths are the perfect solution for both collaborative and individual focused work, the comfortable and peaceful environment also makes the Hush booths the ideal space for reading books.”

The pod, located on the library’s main floor, is available for small business meetings, interviews, and study sessions. The space can be reserved in advance or used on a walk-in basis.

The pod’s unveiling was the culmination of over two years of planning and researching by library administration, that included reconfiguring the library’s main floor and finding exactly the right type of unit for the space.

The study pod was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Danbury Library.
both primary races and on Election Day. We have the largest 
class of legislative freshman in a generation. Many communities 
have one or more, or even all, new legislators headed to Hart-
ford. Send them a quick letter letting them know libraries are 
important to you. Invite them in for a public “meet and greet” 
event and tour of the building. Ask them to be a guest reader at 
Take Your Child to the Library Day on Feb. 2, or during Na-
tional Library Week, or to kick off your summer reading pro-
gram. Take a picture, send it to a local weekly paper if you have 
one and put it on social media—they’ll be grateful to connect 
with the community and they’ll remember.

Over 20 years ago, CLA launched a short-lived library PAC. To-
day, inspired by successes in other states, a new library PAC is 
being formed here in Connecticut. Though it will take years to 
built, the funds it raises will be used to support candidates who 
show their support for libraries. Look for an upcoming inaugural 
event or contact me about joining the PAC’s steering commit-
tee. I know I will definitely feel awkward raising money, but like 
all awkward things, it will get easier with practice.

It’s time to spread the word among all library lovers throughout 
the state about advocacy and how to do it without feeling awk-
ward. Look for ALA’s Advocacy Bootcamp at NELA next fall to 
train and empower library stakeholders to develop confidence 
with advocacy tools and techniques. CLC staff members have 
gone through this training and will be providing advocacy train-
ing with library groups across the state.

In the past, advocacy has often been on an “as needed” basis— 
to support a building project, to turn out to support a budget, 
or when a library service is on the chopping block. Ramped up 
when needed, set aside when it wasn’t. Today we need advoca-
cy every day. Connecticut’s state budget will be billions of dol-
ars in deficit; many often painful cuts have been made and will 
continue to be made and will trickle down to public, school, and 
public college and university libraries, eroding resources, staff, 
and services. Connecticut’s library community must work to-
gether to build everyone’s skills and confidence to make advoca-
cy easy and natural. ♦

Kate Byroade is the director of the Cragin Memo-
rial Library in Colchester.

News from around the State

The Ridgefield Library has announced that it 
has been awarded the Revisiting the Founding Era 
Grant to implement public programming and 
community conversations that explore America’s 
founding and its enduring themes.

“The library is honored to be one of only a hun-
dred libraries nationwide, and one of only two in 
Connecticut, to receive this grant,” said Brenda 
McKinley, Ridgefield Library director.

As part of the grant, the library will receive cop-
ies of a reader containing scholarly essays on se-
lected historical documents from the Gilder 
Lehrman Collection, $1,000 to help implement 
programs, and additional digital resources, train-
ning, and support from the Gilder Lehrman Insti-
tute of American History and the American Li-
brary Association.

These resources will allow Ridgefield Library, 
along with its program partners, Keeler Tavern 
Museum and History Center, Ridgefield Histori-
cal Society, Drum Hill Chapter of the DAR, 
Books on the Common, Ridgefield League of 
Women Voters and the Connecticut Project for 
the Constitution, to launch a program series on 
the Founding Era.

Hartford Public Library has announced that 
CO:LAB, a successful Hartford-based marketing 
and design firm, will be leasing space at HPL’s 
former Goodwin Branch on New Britain Avenue 
and creating a new community center, Free Cen-
ter, at the same time. CO:LAB’s offices will only 
occupy about a third of the space at the former 
library, the rest will be devoted to meetings, pro-
grams, performances and other community uses. ♦
People in the News

CLA board member Danielle Valenzano graduated with an MLIS degree (with a 4.0 GPA!) from Valdosta State University. Valenzano also works as children’s library assistant at the Milford Public Library.

The Mystic & Noank Library has appointed Karen Wall as their new library director, effective Nov. 26. Karen was the director at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley, MA since 2013, and prior to that was reference/adult services librarian at the Killingly Public Library in Danielson.

At the Southington Public Library, Louise Champagne retired as a reference librarian in late October. Sandy DiCicco is the new assistant director/head of reference.

Kellie O’Donnell-Bobadilla has been hired into a tenure-track position as access services librarian at Eastern Connecticut State University’s J. Eugene Smith Library.

At Russell Library in Middletown, Mary Dattilo is the new assistant director for public services. Brandie Doyle is now the assistant director for administrative services. Paula Soares will be retiring at the end of December. Paula’s expertise as director of borrowing and discovery, her calm and kind way with her coworkers, and her exceptional cataloging skills will all be greatly missed.

Mary Ellen Osborne has retired after 18 years as the assistant librarian at Gales Ferry Library. Elaine Steele has been hired to take her place.

Linda Williams, long-time youth services consultant, Division of Library Development is retiring on January 31, 2019. A reception is being held in her honor at MLSC on Jan. 31.

The East Lyme Public Library announces the retirement of Lydia Main after 33 years of service as the library’s cataloger. Lydia began working in libraries during the 7th grade and then at Clarion University. She served as a volunteer at the Naval Sub base library for a time, and the worked at the Groton Public Library as the Sunday supervisor in the children’s room. She began working at the East Lyme Public Library on Feb. 15, 1985, quickly becoming a major asset not only to East Lyme Public Library but also many LION libraries in general.

Sue Phillips, director of Hall Memorial Library in Ellington just returned from her first trip to Kenya with AFK (American Friends of Kenya.)

Hartford Public Library has named Sandra Bender Fromson (front, left) and Howard Fromson (front, right) as the recipients of its 2018 Caroline M. Hewins Medal for their long and outstanding service to the library and the greater Hartford community. The award was presented to the Fromsons by HPL Board President Gregory Davis (rear, left) and HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey (rear, right) at the library’s annual Beyond Words fundraising event on Dec. 7.
CLA Today December 2018/January 2019

CLA Awards Season is Underway!

Nominations Sought for CLA AWARDS 2019

Do you have a person in your library who should be nominated? This is your opportunity!

Awards include:
- Outstanding Librarian
- Special Achievement
- Excellence in Public Library Service
- Support Staff
- Supporter of Support Staff
- News Media
- Adeline Mix
- Intellectual Freedom
- Edith B. Nettleton Award for volunteer service.

Any questions, please contact Chris Hemingway, Region 5 Rep.
chemingway@hagamanlibrary.org

Click here for a description of the awards and nomination form

Deadline: January 31, 2019

Look for information coming soon on the CLA newly revamped Publicity Awards, and also scholarship application information and deadlines.

Now Accepting Applications

NELLS 2019 is taking place August 12th – 16th, 2019 at the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, North Andover, MA.

What is NELLS?

NELLS is an intensive 4½-day course designed for emerging leaders in all areas of library practice. The purpose of the symposium is to foster the mentoring and development of tomorrow’s leaders, who are not only pursuing leadership in their communities and institutions, but are also interested in working with library associations, state, regional, and national.

Founded in 2003, NELLS is a program sponsored by the New England Library Association, and supported by the six New England States.

More information.
From Geri Diorio
My Life As A Goddess by Guy Branum

I highly recommend the audio book version of Branum's memoir about growing up, coming out, and finding his way in life through a pop culture lens. He has a delightful voice and his witty asides make the book that much more fun.

From Kate Byroade
Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik

I’ve been a fan of Novik’s since her debut novel His Majesty’s Dragon came out, so I was looking forward to this second fantasy based (loosely) on Slavic folklore, but I think this is her best work to date. The story fractures and retells “Rumplestiltskin” to explore themes of prejudice, beauty, identity, and what it means for a woman to control her own life. It’s one of the richest and most immersive books I’ve read in a long time, and you won’t be able to put it down.

From Anna Eisen
Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol

Eager to fit in with her suburban classmates, quirky nine-year-old Vera jumps at the opportunity to go to Russian cultural summer camp. Facing the perils of outhouses, hiking expeditions, and mean girl cliques, she finds that summer camp isn’t exactly what she hoped. With hilarious visual details, author/illustrator Vera Brosgol captures all the adolescent angst, tiny triumphs, and unexpected joys of summer camp in this graphic memoir.

Connecticut’s professional organization of librarians, library staff, friends, and trustees working together: to improve library service to Connecticut, to advance the interests of librarians, library staff, and librarianship, and to increase public awareness of libraries and library services.

CLA Today is the newsletter of the Connecticut Library Association. Published every other month, it is posted to the CLA website. Please send submissions for future issues to editor Jennifer Datum at editor@ctlibrarians.org.

www.ctlibraryassociation.org
Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) CT affiliate librarians enjoyed a night out at their meet & greet fall event at Lynon’s Restaurant in Hamden.

From left: Josephine Fulcher-Anderson, Phara Bayonne, Astoria Ridley, Diane Brown, Robert Kinney and Blanche Parker.

Report Censorship
Defend the Public’s Freedoms
www.ala.org/challengerreporting

From CLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee

You may have seen communication from the American Library Association about the importance of reporting censorship challenges for 2018 and CLA is helping get the word out.

Please take five minutes to report any challenges your library or institution has encountered in 2018 to the ALA Online Challenge Reporting Form before December 31, 2018.

Here are five facts to remember:
1. Anyone can report censorship incidents and challenges to library materials or services. You don’t have to be a librarian.
2. Reports can be made confidentially and anonymously.
4. You can be an Intellectual Freedom Fighter even if you haven’t experienced a challenge by sharing this message on Twitter.
5. Article III of the Library Bill of Rights states, “Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”

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