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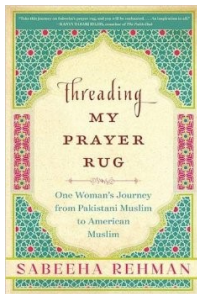
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Most Memorable Reads of 2016

As recommended by members of the CLA Board of Directors

From Sunnie Scarpa

Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim by Sabeeha Rehman

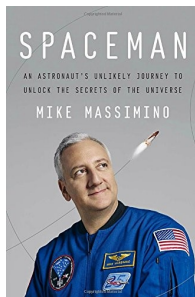


This heartfelt memoir was my most memorable read of 2016. From an arranged marriage at 19 (that produced a loving, 40+ year partnership) to her involvement in NYC's interfaith community post 9/11, her life has been anything but boring! Told

in a thoughtful, sincere, and entertaining voice, Sabeeha's love for her family, her faith, and our American values shines through despite the tumultuous nature of her life's journey

From Sara Martone

Spaceman by Mike Massimino



Spaceman made me laugh, cry, and left me even more in awe of our universe and space travel. Mike Massimino talks about how he went from a little boy dreaming of traveling to the moon, to someone who journeyed to the Hubble telescope.

Massimino's perseverance and passion for his work are extremely apparent throughout the entire book. It left me with hope, wonder, and true inspiration. And I thought I was a space nerd before!

From Jennifer Rummel

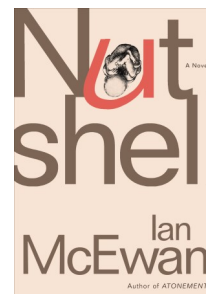
Empire of Storms by Sarah J Maas
It's the one book I waited for all year. I'll



read anything by this author (seriously anything.) It's hard to talk about this book without gushing or without spoiling the series for anyone who hasn't read *Throne of Glass*, but I'll try. The camaraderie between the characters makes the book, including the loyalty, friendship, arguments, and the witty banter. Plus, I love the crazy plot twists that I never see coming.

From Glenn Grube

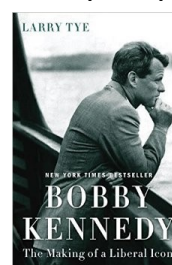
Nutshell, by Ian McEwan



McEwan's fiction always seems to be a dichotomy—dense yet fast paced—and *Nutshell* is no different. The plot will keep you reading to see what happens, but the real joy is the narrator. An unborn child, with a voice that is both naïve and worldly at the same time, is witness to his mother's infidelity and worse as he imagines the post-natal world and schemes to save his father.

From Scott R. Brill

Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon by Larry Tye



As an admirer of RFK, I enjoyed reading, *Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon* which covers RFK's complex and crisis-filled life

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CT Librarian: Sarah Loudenslager



“I didn't always plan on becoming a librarian, but looking back on things it really makes sense that I ended up pursuing this path.”

Tell us a little about the Business Resource Center at Simsbury Public Library, and about your role as coordinator.

The Business Resource Center at Simsbury Public Library offers information and support for start-up businesses, entrepreneurs of all ages, local businesses of all sizes, individuals with a business research need, and those who are looking for a job or career. The BRC is a dedicated space within the Library that offers collaborative work space, private meeting rooms, computers with free business software, an up-to-date collection, and 24/7 access to business databases and electronic information. As coordinator, I oversee the space and collections, offer research assistance and consultations, find speakers on relevant topics and host business seminars, schedule or teach computer and technology classes, attend outreach or networking events, work on special projects for the town, and look for new ways to engage people with the Library. For example, I just applied for and received a TEDx license for the Library and will be organizing a live speaker event sometime in the spring!

What are your favorite parts of the job, and what are some of the challenges?

One of my favorite parts of the job is the fact that I get to walk into a library every day for my job -- there is an inspiration factor associated with being surrounded by books and people learning. If you have a love for libraries, I'm sure you'll get it. I also love helping people and feel like my work is really meaningful especially when I help someone with a business or career related need and later see the impact. One day I would like to start my own business, so I think the resources and questions I get are always really interesting.

Being new to this position and area has its own set of normal challenges to overcome. Beyond that, managing the pres-

sure to do more and be more.

What led you into the field of librarianship?

I didn't always plan on becoming a librarian, but looking back on things it really makes sense that I ended up pursuing this path. Growing up I was always at our local library, and to me the most thrilling part of completing my degree in elementary education was building my classroom library. Literally, for years all I asked for around the holidays were books for my library. (Side note: If I ever have a child, they are going to have a really awesome library). Soon after student teaching and graduation, something just clicked that I should go to library school, so I applied and in a year I earned my MLIS from University of Pittsburgh and had some great experiences along the way.

What are some library related websites/blogs/twitter feeds you like to follow?

I frequently reference the online business guides by the BRASS section of ALA-RUSA (<http://brass.libguides.com/>) and follow @SBAgov @pewresearch and @uscensusbureau among many others on Twitter.

What are you reading right now? Or on your to-be-read list?

Good Morning, Beautiful Business by Judy Wicks -- I started this summer and then paused since I moved. Right now I'm reading a lot of materials for work.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I travel a lot to visit with family and friends in PA (where I am from) and MD (where I just moved from). I also really enjoy exploring new areas, and right now everything is new so even errands can be fun, but I especially enjoy exploring the state parks and trails, and local shops and restaurants. I also enjoy gardening, cooking, knitting, reading, and hanging out with my golden retriever, Bella. ♦

Fall ADA Workshop Recap

The workshop began with New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Center's Steve Famiglietti & Kris Thompson giving a demo of assistive technology devices, including an updated version of the CCTV magnifier that has a touch screen & can take pictures of documents and reads them out loud. They also showed us the magnifier functions on the iPad Pro & iOS 10 phones, [the pearl camera](#), and [the KNFB Reader app](#).

Then members of [Artreach](#), who have experienced psychiatric disorders and recovered, read poetry, did stand up comedy, played music and had a discussion with the attendees about mental health issues.

Finally, Elanah Sherman, of the CT Office of Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, and Kate Soboleva of the Bethel Public Library (and her own service animal) discussed how to differentiate between service animals and other animals, and how to accommodate other patrons with allergies and phobias about these animals. They stressed that unless a service animal (usually a dog or miniature horse) does not behave appropriately, patrons with service animals must be allowed full access to library services. ♦

Save the Date

CT Info Lit Conference
June 16, 2017
Manchester Community College

Call for proposals coming soon!

[More information](#)

Message from the President

This fall, I had the pleasure of attending several of the workshops planned by CLA sections and committees. It was inspiring to see how the hard work in planning resulted in some truly outstanding programs. From the CLASS conference, which featured a variety of breakouts and keynote speakers, to the Customer Service workshop which featured a day with John Huber, author of *The Purpose-Based Library*, to the ADA workshop which provided an insightful review the many services available to our patrons in CT—all were different and valuable opportunities for professional development. I only wish that I could have attended each and every workshop that was presented. Many thanks to the committee and section chairs for providing these experiences for us.

I also attended the FOCL and ACLB fall workshops and want to recognize the efforts of the Friends and Trustees who support and advocate for libraries in our state.

Speaking of advocacy, a new Connecticut General Assembly will take office in January 2017. For the second consecutive year, the Connecticut Library Association has joined *The CTPlaces Coalition*, and many librarians were able to attend one of the several advocacy workshops that took place throughout the state this fall. CT Places is organizing an advocacy day for the end of March—the date will be confirmed in January. I hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to visit the capitol and talk with legislators about the issues that are critical to libraries.

Finally, I would like to wish you and yours a very happy holiday season! ♦

Karen Jensen is the director of the James Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford



LSTA Success Stories: Young Adult Grants

By Maria Bernier, LSTA Coordinator, CT State Library

Circle the emoji that best represents how you feel after today's lesson.



I chose this emoji because _____

Inspired by LoveToTeach

edrrpops

“When are you going to do this again?” – participants in Bethel's "Making the Musical" workshop

In 2015, the CT State Library gave LSTA grants to four public libraries for creative new programming for their Young Adult patrons. These projects, and their results, were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the CT State Library.

In response to input from the community, the **Bethel Public Library** presented a series of workshops on creative writing, Arduino, Maker technology, and theater skills for 'tweens and teens. By far, the improvisation and "Making the Musical" workshops were the most popular and participatory, with enthusiastic students enjoying the fun opportunity for movement and self-expression. "Making the Musical" culminated in a musical revue performance of three songs to a crowd of family and friends.

The **James Blackstone Memorial Library** used their grant funds to expand the capabilities of the library's current teen Maker program. Instructors in the new Learning Labs sessions taught 3D file creation and printing, Arduino circuitry and coding, and wearable technology construction with sewing machines. In Arduino classes, students learned to design and print a fan blade using 3D modeling software, mount the blade to a motor attached to an Arduino board, and program the fan to change speeds with changes in temperatures. Many Learning Lab participants would like to become volunteer instructors for future Maker programs.

The **Douglas Library of Hebron**, which previously offered no programming for young adult patrons, wanted to make teens feel more welcome. As a result of 3D printing and Maker clas-

ses, library staff and patrons now discuss technology on an equal footing. Establishing a new community garden enabled teens to learn new gardening skills, contribute to the community by donating the crops to veterans at the neighboring American Legion post, and fulfill their community service requirements for graduation. A new Teen Advisory Board meets monthly, and over 65 teens completed volunteer applications.



At the **East Lyme Public Library**, the Middle School iMovie Makers Project was a series of fifteen programs taught by professional filmmakers and technology teachers. 'Tweens and teens learned how to tell stories through film using iPads and free or low-cost apps. They practiced new skills such as integration of still images and music into video, lighting, sound recording, script writing, flipbook and stop motion animation, and movie editing. Two of the participants' films were chosen as official selections of the New Haven Documentary Film Festival in June 2016.

The grant-funded projects wrapped up this summer, but all of the libraries plan to continue some of their project activities on a regular basis." ♦

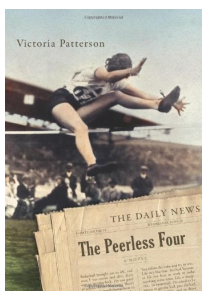


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better than most books by delving into his faults and his strengths. With insightful interviews and detailed research, the book creates a comprehensive picture of RFK from his early conservative leanings in the 1950s to his crucial work regarding Civil Rights. It then chronicles the years following JFK's assassination, when a devastated Bobby Kennedy discovered a voice for his deep passion for justice and understanding before finally being assassinated himself while campaigning for president of the United States.

From Christy Billings

Peerless Four by Victoria Patterson

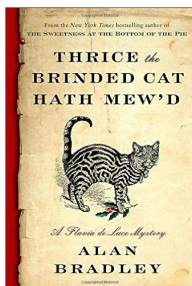


Did you see a woman runner today? If you did, you probably didn't think anything of it. This book is about women who ran, and became Olympic Athletes in a time when doctors

strongly discouraged this kind of activity for women. This was the world of these Canadian athletes in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, the first games in which women were allowed to compete in track and field. It's a quick read that won't quickly leave your thoughts.

From Lisa Gugliotti

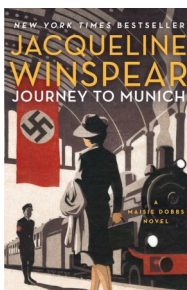
Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mew'd (Flavia de Luce, #8) by Alan Bradley



For Flavia de Luce fans, this is the best book in the series yet! Alan Bradley's mystery series about a highly intelligent 11-year-old girl growing up in post-World War II England is charming and entertaining. You should start with the beginning of the series, *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, published in 2009. Yaroo!

From Marge Ruschau

Journey to Munich by Jacqueline Winspear



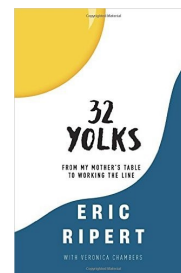
The Maisie Dobbs series started just after World War I, with some flashbacks to the war. Now, in this 11th book in the series, Winspear is almost up to World War II. Although

the entire series is good, this is one of the better. Maisie is in disguise to try to get an English scientist out of Dachau prison, which is not a concentration camp at this time. The suspense of whether she will succeed and who might betray her added suspense to the plot. I wanted to

read faster to find out what was going to happen. I anxiously await her next book.

From Jennifer Datum

32 Yolks: From My Mother's Table to Working the Line by Eric Ripert and Veronica Chambers



The graphic cover art drew me in, but the short chapters describing Eric Ripert's family life, childhood and rise to becoming one of the most well-known and highly rated chefs kept me interested.

From Karen Jensen

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi



One of the best books of the year, this memoir of a young brain surgeon who is diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer was published in January. In the process of going from a life full of

promise to literally facing death, the author discovered his gift as a writer. While the book is on its face about dying, it actually celebrates living and making the most of the time we have on earth. ♦

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.



www.ctlibraryassociation.org

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.

CT Library: Saxton B. Little Free Library



Visitors to the children's area are transported to a fantasy forest, thanks to the artistry of Ted Esselstyn.

In 2007, the Saxton B. Little Free Library in Columbia began the process of seeking to expand and renovate. The Library had been built in 1985 and not only outgrown itself, but suffered from a leaking roof, inconsistently working HVAC, and the general signs of wear over decades.

After two failed referendums, the town of Columbia provided the funds to match a state library construction grant which allowed for the much needed repairs and expansion.

Over the past year, the Saxton B. received a new roof, new HVAC, a revamp of its interior, and approximately 2000 additional square feet, 500 square feet of which is programming room. It opened its doors to the public November 1st with a daylong celebration.

Entering the library, patrons are greeted with a new multilevel circulation desk designed by library staff and made into reality by Correctional Enterprises of CT. Both staff and patrons find the new design an improvement.

Visitors to the children's area are transported to a fantasy forest, thanks to the artistry of Ted Esselstyn. Columbia's little ones can sit on their own comfy chair, next to a painted Stuart Little and share their stories with fox, squirrels and other animal friends.

Adults have plenty of seating, new gallery space for local artists, and access to a collection that is finally all housed in one location.

The process to arrive at this new destination has been long and arduous, but everyone is glad to say that the Saxton B. Little Library is home. The Saxton B. invites all to come say hello and are glad to be returning to normal. ♦



People in the News

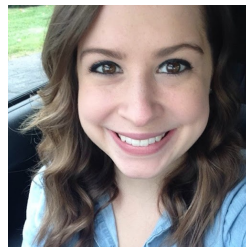
Sue Piel, a 24-year veteran of the **Woodbury Public Library**, has been named the facility's new director, replacing the retiring Pat Lunn.

Brenda McKinley, most recently director at the C.H. Booth Library in Newtown, will begin work in January 2017 as the new director of the **Ridgefield Library**, succeeding **Chris Nolan**, who is retiring December 31st after 16 years of service.



Bonnie Strickland-Naczi retired after 29 wonderful years in the children's department of the **Wallingford Public Library**. She brought magic and wonder to the children's room and will be sorely missed.

Alyssa Standish will be joining the staff of **Wallingford Public Library**. She started working at the WPL part-time 5 years ago and was inspired to go back to school for her MLS, which she recently finished!



Fairfield's First Selectman, Mike Tetreau, (l) and Selectman Chris Tymniak (r) give Doug Fried (c) the "2016 Fairfielder of the Year" award, on December 7, 2016 at Independence Hall in Fairfield.

The Town of Fairfield announced the "2016 Fairfield-er of the Year" award winner is **Pequot Library's** board of trustees member, **Doug Fried**. This extraordinary volunteer has been chair or co-chair of Pequot Library's book sales for at least 15 years and volunteering at Pequot Library since 1992. Pequot Library's summer book sale brings 10,000 people to Fairfield every July for the past 56 years and their annual Black Friday/Saturday sale attracts over 2,000 attendees. Pequot Library's mid-winter book sale (February 18 - 19, 2017) brings over 2,000 people to Fairfield each year, and the book sales are a much needed component of Pequot Library's fundraising initiatives. Congratulations to Doug Fried on being a hard-working, dedicated volunteer, and for being an all-round nice guy!

At the **West Haven Public Library**:

- **Catherine Bushman** has taken over as assistant director from departing Claudia Volano. She began in her role Oct. 31.
- **Tanarha Smith** will be beginning December 19 as our new user services librarian.
- **Jackie Bush** will be transferring to teen librarian. She was previously our technical services librarian.
- **Travis Feder** will be taking Jackie's role. He was previously our reference librarian.
- **Rosiland Hennah** will be our new reference librarian, taking over Travis' role.

Gloria Serratore has passed away. She was employed for twenty-three years as the supervisor of the circulation systems of **Bristol Public Library**. [Read her obituary.](#)

Samantha Lee started as the new head of reference at the **Enfield Public Library** in October.

Kym Powe will begin working in the youth department at the **Harry Bennett Library in Stamford** on December 26th. In addition to working in the library, she will also be working on their book mobile.

Amanda L. Goodman is now the publicity manager at **Darien Library**. Previously she was the user experience librarian.



People in the News

Mary Beth Rassulo has joined the **Easton Public Library** as the new assistant director/head of youth services. She was previously at Ridgefield Library, where she worked as the children's librarian since 2009.

Drusilla Carter has been appointed to the position of library director at **Cromwell Belden Public Library**.

Melissa McGoldrick has been promoted to children's librarian at the **Thomaston Public Library**.

Roberta Donahue, head of youth services at **Mystic & Noank Library**, has been promoted to assistant director. Roberta will continue to manage our youth services program along with our website and social media channels in her new role. In 2017, Roberta will be celebrating her 30 year work anniversary!

Cathy DeNigris, deputy director of the **New Haven Free Public Library** retired on Friday, November 25, after 33 years of dedicated service to the library and the New Haven community. In her long tenure, Cathy has served in virtually every department from the children's room to the branch libraries to her current role as the deputy director of our institution. She has seen the library grow and evolve, face challenges and celebrate triumphs. Through it all she has been a devoted champion of the library's core mission - to ensure that all New Haven's citizens have full and unlimited access to information and knowledge so that they may meet the needs of daily living, have opportunities for self-education, and improve their lives. She advocates for every library user in our community, and has made her steadfast loyalty and commitment infectious among her colleagues.



Marjorie Fitzgerald is retiring from working 13 years at **Oxford Public Library** as circulation clerk as of the end of December 2016. We will miss her and wish her well in her retirement!

At the **Hartford Public Library**:

- **Dave Ionno**, a Senior Library Assistant, retired this fall after 26 years of service.
- **Elizabeth Lane** is a new branch manager. She served as associate librarian for public services at the Frick Collection in Manhattan.
- **Jasmin Agosto** is an education and community outreach manager for Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library. Jasmin has a master of arts from New York University and worked as an archivist assistant and metadata writer at HHC.
- **Tammy Young** is an education site coordinator for adult services. She was a correspondent for the Enfield Press, a librarian and teacher for St. Bernard School in Enfield.
- **Ingrid Pineda** is a project assistant for adult services. She assists immigrants in preparing their paperwork to become U.S. citizens.
- **Juanita Montalvo** is an early literacy assistant. She worked for the Community Renewal Team helping the elderly in Hartford.

Hartford Public Library honored **Louise Blalock**, its former chief librarian (1994-2006), with its first **Caroline M. Hewins medal** for her outstanding service. Author Wally Lamb presented the award at the Library's Beyond Words event on Dec. 1. ♦



HPL-CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey, left, with Louise Blalock, as they hold the Caroline M. Hewins medal given during the Beyond Words event on Dec. 1.

Cornucopia of Rhode Island by Ida D. McGhee



CORI:
Cornucopia
of Rhode
Island
Community
of Color

Cornucopia of Rhode Island: A Library Community of Color (CORI) celebrated their 10th anniversary on Sept. 15th at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick. Although it is really 11 years that we have been in existence, CORI did not celebrate their 10th anniversary and therefore decided to do so this year.

I retired in 2003 from the Hartford Public Library as head of the Library on Wheels department and relocated to Rhode Island. Once settled in, I decided to seek a group such as the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Connecticut Chapter, where I was a past co-president.

Having been an active member of the Connecticut Library Association, the New England Library Association and the Northeast Chapter of REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, I was anticipating becoming a member of the local Rhode Island BCALA chapter. Having found none, I met with then the dean of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of School of Library and Information Studies, Dr. Michael Havener, and expressed my concerns. Did he know of any local library organizations akin to BCALA or Reforma here in RI? He said no. This was the beginning of CORI.

Havener, Dr. Donna Gilton, a professor of the GSLIS program and attorney Denise Dowdell, also a librarian, and I met throughout the summer of 2005 to establish Cornucopia of Rhode Island. Guidelines and a mission statement were formed as well as incorporation with the State of Rhode Island. Potential members were contacted and invited to attend our first meeting.

On a beautiful crisp September 2005 autumn afternoon, the University of Rhode Island GSLIS program hosted the

first meeting of CORI and members of BCALA-CT and Reforma Northeast attended, plus librarians throughout the east coast and the national president of BCALA, Andrew Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako).

From its beginning CORI has been an active participant in the Rhode Island library community including the following presentations at the annual Rhode Island Library Association conference:

- Dr. Carla Hayden, past president of ALA, former director of the Enoch Pratt Library and now Librarian of Congress
- Commissioner Deborah A. Gist, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Pamela Goode, associate editor of American Libraries Association
- Keith Stokes, former Executive Director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
- Attorney Veronica Hobbs, director of the Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit for the Rhode Island Supreme Court

Cornucopia aimed to present community conferences on the diverse minority groups in Rhode Island. The first conference was titled *I is not for Indian*. The workshop was led by URI professor Dr. Naomi Caldwell and Gabriella Kaye, a librarian at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut. This workshop was a total success as it enlightened many librarians of the inadequate portrayal of Native Americans in children's books and literature.

This conference was followed by a workshop on the Chinese language and culture; a combined effort with the University of Rhode Island Confucius Institute. In the following years, CORI's Fall Conferences as they became known, included the Cape Verdean community, the Rhode Island Hispanic community, and the Afri-

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News from around the State

Wilton Library's high school-aged robotics team, **Singularity Technology**, part of the national FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization, won several awards at the December 4 Mountain Match-up Qualifier. The team won the Think Award for removing engineering obstacles through creative thinking. Singularity Technology was also the recipient of the Inspire Award -- given to the team that truly embodied the "challenge" of the FIRST® Tech Challenge program. Additionally, Singularity Technology was nominated for the Rockwell Collins Award for bringing great ideas from concept to reality, and for the Control Award which is given for "Connecting the dots between community, FIRST, and the diversity of the engineering world." As a result of their performance, Wilton Library's team advanced to state level competition.

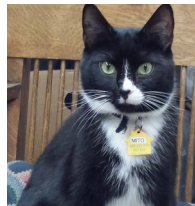


Wilton Library's Innovation Day, held October 22, 2016, was a hands-on festival of building, tinkering and exploring. The day attracted more than 1,200 visitors – double the usual Saturday numbers – who came together to enjoy high-tech and low-tech fun for all ages. The theme of "Discover, Dabble and Do-It-Yourself" encouraged patrons to participate in crafting opportunities, workshops and presentations. Innovation Day workshops and presentations included such diverse offerings as Light up a Chef's Apron with LEDs; Raising Chickens; 3D Designing with Tinkercad; How to Put Your Garden to Bed; Bee Keeping; Terrarium Making; Wine Making; Quilling and a popular Wine Tasting session. Nearly 30 hands-on stations and exhibitors were manned by both staff and community partners. Some of the most popular exhibits included 3D Doodler; 3D Printing; Button Mak-



ing; Learn about Downloadables (with a Kindle Fire giveaway); Fly Tying & Casting; Girls Who Code Club; Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club; Handcrafted Electric Guitar; Henna Tattoos; Jewelry Making; Plumbing How To's; Recycled Art Tree; Robotics Team; Take Apart Table and Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard. Admission to Innovation Day was free; certain activities had a nominal fee to offset costs. When not busy dabbling or discovering, participants enjoyed snacks from one of the food trucks parked outside the library especially for the day.

The **Henry Carter Hull Library** in Clinton is now a U.S. Passport Processing Center. Three library staff members have been trained to process passports, and are available by appointment. In addition to being a convenient service to the public, the library makes a profit for providing this service by collecting a mandatory processing fee.



Mystic & Noank Library has a new library cat, Mito! He is a rescue from *Focus on Ferals* in Uncasville. He was found on Powerhouse Road and was given the name Mito – short for Mitochondria, the powerhouse of the cell! Mito is approximately four years old. He is very friendly and enjoys pets and snuggles. Please feel free to visit with Mito on the 2nd level of the library. Mito also has his own Instagram account you can now follow! You can find him under the name #MitoTheLibraryCat - he will be regularly sharing his adventures and his opinions on being a library cat!

"We Shall Pass This Way But Once," the WPA mural fragment rescued from the former Central Grammar School downtown and restored, was unveiled Oct. 6 at the **Milford Public Library**.

Standing in front of the mural are, left to right: Dr. Elizabeth Feser, superintendent of schools; Chris Angeli, library director; Marion Morra, Curator, Permanent Arts Council; Frank Vespi, former arts coordinator for the board of education



Highlights from Welcoming Diversity with CLASS

By Alberto Cifuentes Jr., CLASS co-chair



Both Diane and Anthony beautifully captured our conference's mission of celebrating the diversity of all of our support staff and their personal and historical interactions with libraries.

The CLA Support Staff section, CLASS, presented our 18th annual professional development conference, "Welcoming Diversity with CLASS," for library support staff on Oct. 28th. For the seventh consecutive year, the conference was held at the University of Hartford's Gray Conference Center. This all-day conference, which included breakfast and an always awesome lunch, offered a diverse range of educational, networking, and career-enhancing opportunities for library support staff. This year, we not only had some library directors join us but also college and university program representatives from Three Rivers Community College's Library Technology Certificate Program and Southern Connecticut State University's Master's in Information & Library Science Program.

Our morning's keynote speaker, New Haven branch manager Diane Brown, gave an honest and refreshing story of how she was able to transform a once ignored and stagnant urban library branch into a vibrant and engaging center for art, culture, and learning. She showed us photos of how she was able to skillfully and creatively sponsor and coordinate cultural and educational events for children and adults on a shoestring budget. Later, our afternoon keynote speaker, author and photographer Anthony Riccio, read us engrossing excerpts from his book *Farms, Factories, Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut*, an in-depth look at the history of Italian American women in Connecticut. Both Diane and Anthony beautifully captured our conference's mission of celebrating the diversity of all of our support staff and their personal and historical interactions with libraries.

All eight breakout sessions, ranging from topics such as makerspace and children's services to art books and career advancement, were well-received by participants. In addition, our roundtable discussions where library staff openly dis-

cussed a variety of relevant topics was expanded to one hour this year. We were able to engage in extended dialogues about diverse subjects, such as reference, children's/teen's services, and marketing, that were interesting and provocative and actually inspired new workshop topics for next year's conference. The conference itself had a total of 110 participants!

For my second time planning and coordinating the CLASS Conference, the process was even smoother this year, and I was confident that every element would come together for the maximum benefit of every participant. Of course, I could not have done it without the diligence and commitment of our conference steering committee: Kate Bengtson, Lorie Goings, Jennifer Hadley, and Sandy Smith Rosado. Our committee would like to thank all of our speakers, including our opening remarks speakers, CLA President Karen Jensen and University of Hartford's University Libraries Head of Resource and Metadata Services Ben Ide; keynote speakers Diane Brown and Anthony Riccio; our great roundtable facilitators (many of whom doubled as workshop presenters), and our amazing workshop presenters and exhibitors. All of them helped make this conference so successful and indelible for the committee and participants.

Lastly, the committee would like to especially thank Randi Ashton-Pritting, the director of University Libraries at the University of Hartford, for all her support and guidance this year and previous years in making this conference possible. Randi has helped make the planning and coordination of this conference so much easier and flexible for all involved.

If you would like to check out the program from this year's conference to see our full list of presenters as well as some helpful links and guides, please go to our

CONTINUED ON P. 14

Otis Library to Host Smithsonian Exhibition

Otis Library has been chosen as one of 19 U.S. public libraries to host *Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?*, a traveling exhibition developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and the American Library Association (ALA).

Based on the Smithsonian's [What Does It Mean to Be Human?](#) permanent exhibition at the NMNH, *Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?* seeks to shed light on what we know about human origins and how we know it. The exhibition welcomes different cultural perspectives on evolution and seeks to foster positive dialogue and a respectful exploration of the science.

Otis Library will host the 1,200-square-foot exhibition four weeks from **January 7, 2017 to February 3, 2017**. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of free library programs, including presentations by Smithsonian scientists.

The libraries selected to host *Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?* represent a range of communities, from small towns to large metropolitan areas. To view the list of selected sites, visit <http://www.ala.org/programming/humanorigins>.

The exhibition will be free and open to the public during library hours. Please visit Otis Library's website at www.otislibrarynorwich.org for library hours and for a full schedule of programs that complement the exhibit. ♦



Smithsonian



May 4-5, 2017

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa, Groton

Featured Keynotes:

Annabel Beerel
Annabel Beerel Consulting

and

Lauren Comito & Christian Zabriskie
Urban Libraries Unite and authors of
Grassroots Library Advocacy

Conference Co-Chairs:
Sara Martone; Guilford Free Library
smartone@guilfordfreelibrary.org

Kristina Edwards; Central CT State Univ.
kedwards@ccsu.edu

126th Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference

2017 CLA Publicity Awards Contest



The CLA Publicity Committee sponsors an Annual Awards Contest. Materials designed by a library to promote a library concept or event may be submitted. A panel of professional designers/artists and a representative from the library field will choose the winning entries. Winners will be honored at a CLA Conference Program and winning entries will be displayed at the CLA Conference.

Entry Guidelines

- Library may submit **one entry per category** created during calendar year 2016.
- If your library has won an award in a particular category and have not made significant changes, please do not resubmit in that category.
- Send 1 original of each entry with a copy of this entry form attached to each original. If submitting **Electronic Media**, you may email the project's URL and screen shot (if applicable) to jmenders@otislibrarynorwich.org and mail or fax completed entry form.
- Entries will be judged for content, usability, originality & design.
- Judges' decisions are final. The judges reserve the right not to give an award in a category or give additional awards if merited.
- Entries will not be returned.

Submit entries by January 31, 2017 to:

Julie Menders, jmenders@otislibrarynorwich.org, fax (860) 889-2533
 Otis Library
 261 Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360
 Fax 860.704.2228 Phone 860.704.2207

PRINT MEDIA

- Bookmark Newsletter Program Flyer (8 1/2" x 14" or smaller)
 Poster (11" x 17" or larger) Library Logo Signage
 Annual Report

ELECTRONIC MEDIA (include entry URL in the form below)

- Website / Blog Video (DVD, YouTube, Public Service Announcement, etc) e-newsletter
 Social Media (e.g. Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Facebook, etc.)

THEMATIC PROJECT

- 3 or more coordinating items which can be print media, electronic media or a combination of both

DESIGN In-House Design Professional Design

Library Director: _____

Library: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Designer(s): _____

URL (for Electronic Media): _____

Please describe the purpose and marketing plan in 250 words or less. (use back of form or attach a sheet)

Include ° Cost? ° Was it designed professionally? ° What effect did the PR have on the project?

CORI CONTINUED FROM P. 9

can American community. A community conversation on Rhode Island students included guest speakers ALA president-elect Barbara Stripling and U.S. Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

Reed, a prominent advocate for libraries and librarians could not attend CORI's 10th anniversary celebration but did send a video presentation where he addressed the accomplishments of CORI and its members.

The anniversary celebration was an opportunity for CORI members to recognize the retirements of two supporters of CORI, **Dr. Cheryl McCarthy**, professor emerita, University of Rhode Island School Library Media Coordinator, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and **Andrew Jackson** (Sekou Molefi Baako) former executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center Queens, New York. Loida Garcia-Febo, a candidate for the 2018-19 presidency of the American Library Association and a former president of Reforma was also present and congratulated CORI on their 10th anniversary and commitment to attract librarians of color to Rhode Island.

Small in numbers, CORI will be meeting this fall with Valerie Karno the URI director, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and Karen Mellor, chief of library services, State of Rhode Island, Office of Library and Information Services. Mellor was the guest speaker at CORI's 10th anniversary. Mellor stated that a lot has changed since 2005, including the nation's first African American president and the first female governor of Rhode Island. Based on statistics from 2014, Rhode Island's population is 20% minorities and 17.5% minorities work for the state. Mellor emphasized that it is imperative that we attract a diverse workforce and recruit more minorities for state positions. Mellor believes that all changes begin with a conversation and OLIS will begin to work with CORI and URI GLSIS program to ensure that this happens.

The three groups would like to sit and discuss the underrepresentation of people of color in the Rhode Island library profession.

For additional information on Cornucopia of Rhode Island: A Library Community of Color visit our blog at www.cornucopiaofri.blogspot.com. ♦

@CTLibAssoc on Twitter



Find us on Facebook



CLASS CONTINUED FROM P. 11

conference page, <http://tinyurl.com/CLASSConf2016>. If you would like to get more involved with CLASS or would like to share any feedback about this year's conference, feel free to e-mail us at ct.class.conference@gmail.com.

Please join us again next year for a conference that keeps getting better every year thanks to the diversity and ingenuity of our library support staff! ♦

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