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Uncharted Waters: Navigating the Changing Tides in Librarianship

The 126th Annual Conference was held on May 4 & 5 at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. Keynote speakers were Dr. Annabel Beerel and Lauren Comito & Christian Zabriskie of Urban Libraries Unite. WNPR's The Colin McEnroe Show broadcast *The Nose*, their Friday pop culture roundtable radio show, live from the Mystic ballroom during lunch. Many thanks to conference co-chairs Kristina Edwards and Sara Marton, and exhibits co-chair Brandie Doyle and Katy Dillman. ♦



Showing off CLA bracelets, and temporary tattoos at conference!



Kat Baumgartner @KBaumgartner36 · May 5

I wasn't sure what to expect, but #clacon was incredible! Informative sessions, lovely people, and a lot of great work being accomplished.



Abbey with an E @abberzzz · May 5

Great presentation from @CLLFirestone at #CLAcon! So many ideas to bring to my writers groups!



miss meg @itsmissmeg · May 5

Connect what city council member cares about to the library and what they are doing #clacon



Sharon Clapp @sclapp · May 4

#clacon the more invested we are in status quo the less likely we are to see true reality that's cresting on the horizon

Check us out on social media @CTLibAssoc



Conference Reports



Conference co-chairs
Kristina Edwards (l) and
Sara Martone (r)



Exhibits co-chairs Katy
Dillman (l) and Brandie
Doyle (r)



Conference participants
get hands-on experience
with new technology

Welcome to the conference review issue of CLA Today. Many thanks to our reporters.

Creating Library Webpages That Won't Make Your Eyes Glaze Over

Presenter: Joelle Thomas, User Engagement Librarian, Trinity College

Joelle Thomas's presentation on Friday was packed with useful information and advice for library workers who want to improve their user-facing web pages. Her advice was based on the idea that we ought to design our web pages based on user needs and behaviors, a concept that ought to be self-evident to web designers. Organization, foundations, visual cues (no clip art!), accessibility, and responsive design were among the major topics of her talk. She also discussed user testing, maintenance, and continuous improvement. Here are links to resources Joelle recommended:

1. Accessibility
WebAIM (Web Accessibility In Mind)
<http://webaim.org/resources/>

Chrome and Firefox extensions to evaluate web accessibility
WAVE (<http://wave.webaim.org/extension/>)

Color picker with vision simulator (accessibility)
Paletton (<http://paletton.com/>)

2. Usage
Google Analytics (<https://>

analytics.google.com/analytics/web/)

And her presentation itself:

<https://is.gd/OOkQ2c>

Reporter: Eric Hansen

Connecticut Gems: Three Special Libraries in CT

Connecticut is full of unknown library gems. In this presentation, we focused on the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, The Collections Research Center at Mystic Seaport and the Scherer Library of Musical Theater at the Goodspeed.

Beth Burges, Collections Manager at the **Harriet Beecher Stowe Center** in Hartford at Nook Farm told the group that the Center holds the largest collection of materials relating to the Beecher and Stowe families and resources relating to Harriet Beecher Stowe's 19th century novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. The Stowe Center is an international tourist site, with nationally significant collections dealing on the topics of slavery and racism. They have family records, museum collections of artifacts based on Uncle Tom's Cabin. The archives house diaries, letters, manuscripts, photos, sound records. The Stowe Day House will be reopening soon after a lengthy renovation. The Research Center is free and open to the public, by appointment.

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An inviting program from the Children's Section



Keynote speaker Dr. Annabel Beerel

Quote about award winner

Ann Marie Lund

"She represented the Nutmeg Book Award in countless customer service interactions. She served selflessly and with inspirational good will toward all of Connecticut's children and the libraries who serve them. She carried the Nutmeg Book Award forward year after year."

Message from the President

It has been an incredibly rewarding experience to serve as CLA president this year, and truly inspiring to work with so many talented and dedicated colleagues.

A significant effort for CLA in 2016-2017 was advocacy to restore funding for the borrowIT reimbursement program. CLA members stepped up by providing written and verbal testimony at the capitol, attending advocacy days, meeting with legislators, and organizing letter writing campaigns. We employed the lobbying firm of Gallo & Robinson to advise us in these efforts and work on our behalf at the capitol. We were fortunate to have caught the attention of a Hartford Courant reporter who brought the issue to the forefront in his editorial, *Library Cut Too Deep*, published on April 5. More work is yet to be done as the State struggles to adopt a budget this summer.

CLA sections and committees provided essential professional development programs throughout the year and at the annual conference, which received overall excellent reviews. Currently we are over 730 members strong!

Looking ahead to 2017-2018, the very successful Passport to CT Libraries program will return in the spring, and registration for the 2017 Leadership Skills Development Institute program on August 11 is open now. I am excited to finish out my term as past president under the leadership of Glenn Grube, who I believe will be an excellent president.

I would like to thank all of the CLA board and staff for your encouragement and support this year. I urge anyone who has an interest to get involved with CLA as there are countless opportunities to make a difference for your profession and your colleagues—in Connecticut and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve—it has certainly been a privilege. ♦

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



Annual Awards Ceremony



Greg Davis (center)

2017 Excellence in Public Library Service with a population greater than 15,000

Chris Bacchiocchi and Beth Grimes

Adult Services Department
Stratford Library Association

2017 CLA Special Achievement Award

Diane Brown

Branch Manager
Stetson Branch Library of New Haven



Beth and Chris of Stratford

2017 CLA Special Achievement Award

Sarah Mallory

Hagaman Memorial Library, East Haven

2017 CLA Support Staff Award

Susan Honer

Russell Library, Middletown



Sarah Mallory

2017 Edith B. Nettleton Award:

Greg Davis

President of the Board of Directors, volunteer and mentor
Hartford Public Library

The Nutmeg Steering Committee "Nutmeg Hero Award"

Ann Marie Lund

Noah Webster Library, West Hartford



2017 CLA Publicity Awards



Print Media – Newsletter, In House

Silas Bronson Library

Designer: Raechel Guest

Honorable Mention: Trumbull Library System, Designer: Erik Redin

Print Media – Program Flyer, In House

East Hartford Public Library

Designer: Rebecca Livaich

Guilford Free Library

Designers: Sara Martone and Angelina Carnevale

Honorable Mention: Windsor Locks Public Library, Designer: Gabrielle Sobilo

Print Media – Poster, In House

Darien Library

Designers: Amanda L. Goodman and Krishna Grady

Print Media – Signage, In House

Douglas Library of Hebron

Designer: Clare Betz

Print Media – Library Logo, In House

Wilton Library

Designer: Janet Crystal

Print Media – Invitation, In House

Kent Memorial Library

Designer: Lucy C. Pierpont

Print Media – Annual Report, In House

Farmington Libraries

Designers: Leah Farrell, Sarah Mias

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, In House

Darien Library

Designers: John Blyberg and James McNutt

Honorable Mention: East Lyme Public Library,

Designers: Tara Borden and Ashley Doak

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, Professional

Greenwich Library

Designers: Verbal + Visual, Kate Petrov

Electronic Media – Video, In House

Avon Free Public Library

Designer: Jessica Palmer

Electronic Media – Video, Professional

Wallingford Public Library

Designer: Wheel to Sea LLC

Electronic Media – Social Media, In House

Wolcott Public Library

Designer: Shianne Goodfield

Thematic Project, In House

Darien Library

Designer: Amanda L. Goodman

Honorable Mention: Waterford Public Library, Designer: Kathy Huestis

Honorable Mention: Cora J. Belden Library, Designer: Jennifer Zappulla

Thematic Project, Professional

Hartford Public Library

Designer: The Pita Group

Scholarship Winners



Julie Bartley



Richard Conroy (I) and
Jennifer Lutris



Peter Ciparelli (I) and
Claudette Stockwell

One of the most pleasant duties of the CLA Career Development Committee is to award scholarships to students who are pursuing higher education in our profession. This year we opened up eligibility for financial support to people enrolled in courses of study for other than LTA or MLS degrees, such as BA, School Media, and PhD. programs. One reason we were able to do so is because ACLB once again contributed \$1,000 toward the pool of available scholarship funds, and we are very grateful for their support.

The most challenging part of the process each year is determining who among the many candidates deserving of support will receive scholarships. This year alone we received fifteen applications. The Career Development Committee encourages anyone who is engaged in library science studies to apply for assistance when next year's scholarship applications become available in early 2018.

Julie Bartley is employed as a children's librarian at the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library and is enrolled in the MLIS program at Texas Woman's University. The enthusiasm that she expressed in her application will serve her well in her professional life.

Jennifer Lutris works in the library at Housatonic Community College, and is enrolled in the School Media Specialist program at Southern Connecticut State University. She has the distinction of being our first ever scholarship winner to be engaged in that course of studies.

Claudette Stockwell has been employed at the Killingly Library for 15 years and is currently the assistant director there. She is also enrolled at Texas Woman's University and aspires to take over from Peter Ciparelli when some day in the distant future he decides to retire.

Danielle Valenzano works in the Children's Department at the Milford Public Library. She has not only been an asset to Milford, but also CLA as a hard working Co-Chair of the Children's Section. The committee was particularly impressed by her ongoing and active involvement with CLA. ♦

The **Career Development Committee** sponsored four programs at this year's CLA annual conference. On Thursday morning Richard Conroy gave a presentation titled *Cover Me* that dealt with how to craft an effective cover letter for inclusion in a job application packet. That afternoon Jessica Branciforte led a panel discussion: *You've Seen the Job Ad – NOW what?* during which four librarians with many years of hiring experience gave tips on how to submit a strong job application, do well during an interview, and other topics. They also offered advice on what *not* to do. Ellen G. Janpol finished up the day with the program: *Navigating the Changing Librarian 'Gig' by Utilizing Social Media*. On Friday the day began with the awarding of scholarships to four students who were chosen from a highly competitive pool of fifteen applicants. Later that morning we sponsored our first *Mentor Meetup* which was also organized by Jessica Branciforte. As always, using the conference as a means of providing help and advice to those in our profession seeking to advance their careers was an extremely rewarding experience for the committee members who participated. ♦

Quote about award winner

Diane Brown

“Diane’s commitment to the community she serves is unbreakable and goes well beyond the walls of Stetson Branch Library and her profession as a librarian. Just ask anyone in New Haven do they know Diane Brown or as the youth call her “Ms. Diane”. She is called upon by many organizations, groups, institutions and individuals for her advice and expertise in many areas. She is a vital role model in the village and respected as such.”

Quote about award winner

Sarah Mallory

“She is the moderator of the Hagaman Teen Advisory Group (HTAG) which helps teens serve the library and their community. The Teen Group has also been nationally recognized as one of 15 groups in the country to take part in the Teen’s Top Ten Panel in conjunction with the American Library Association.”

Annual Meeting Highlights

President’s Report, Karen Jensen

CLA continued to work with the lobbying firm Gallo & Robinson. Kate Robinson has been instrumental in helping us to organize our advocacy efforts. A particular challenge this year is the proposed elimination of the borrowIT reimbursement program from the state budget. We had a good show of support at the capitol in February and library staff and users submitted testimony. Additionally, we had lots of support from ALA, PLA and NYLA in our efforts to save the borrowIT funding. Of course, I also want to thank all of the libraries that organized letter-writing campaigns which made a huge difference, as did the editorial in the Hartford Courant. Unfortunately this cut has not yet been restored and we need to continue advocating. CLA sections and committees organized a variety of excellent programs throughout the year. Many thanks to numerous staff and volunteers that make CLA run, and thanks to all CLA members.

The **minutes from the 125th Annual Meeting** were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Scott Brill, Treasurer

Finances are currently on track to end the fiscal year as planned. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Beth Crowley, seconded by Glenn Grube, and approved unanimously.

CLA Bylaws Revision

Christine Angeli, CLA Procedures Chair

Chris Angeli gave a summary of the proposed changes and asked members to look for the electronic ballot that will be send out via e-mail within the next few weeks.

Legislative Report

Carl Antonucci, Chair of the Legislative Committee

On behalf of CLA’s lobbyist Kate Robinson, Carl Antonucci asked everyone to please contact their legislators to ask for restored library funding for borrowIT CT. Ken Wiggin, State Librarian, gave an update on the state of the budget process.

Presentation of Candidates for CLA Office

Beth Crowley presented the following slate:

Vice President/President Elect

Kate Byroade, Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester

Recording Secretary

Catherine Potter, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill

Region 1 Representative

Britta Santamauro, McTernan Centennial Library, Naugatuck

Region 4 Representative

Geri Diorio, Stratford Library Association

Alessandra Petrino, Weston Public Library

Region 5 Representative

Drusilla Carter, Cromwell Belden Public Library

Chris Hemingway, Hagaman Memorial Library, East Haven

NELA Representative

Christy Billings, Russell Library, Middletown

Sarah McCusker, Canton Public Library

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The Collections Research Center at Mystic Seaport is the nation's leading maritime research facility. Paul O'Pecko, vice president of collections and research, reminded the group that the G. W. Blunt White Library specializes in areas of maritime history, not just whaling. Among the unique materials they have logbooks, crew journals, maps and charts, over 200,000 ship plans, sound archives with oral histories and over 1.3 million photographs. The collection is used for educational, research, exhibitions and family history research. The library is also open to the public by appointment.

The **Scherer Library of Musical Theater at the Goodspeed** is the only library in the world dedicated to musical theater. Based out of the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, the home of American Musical Theater, the collection started as numerous donations from the theater world in the 1970's. Education Manager and Library Director Josh Ritter explained that the library has numerous collections of scores, scripts, and source materials, including the Rogers and Hammerstein Libretti and Score Collection and the complete NBC Collection. The library is open by appointment.

Reporter: Kimberly Farrington



Strategies for Teaching ILL to New Staff Members

Librarians are constantly training new staff members to do numerous tasks in the library. For any type of library or department, it is a time consuming job, with constant staff turnover. Interlibrary Loan is a highly detailed process containing numerous steps. Any mis-

take in the process can create more work for everyone and potentially delay the receipt of requested materials to the patrons. Terry Palacios-Baughman, Interlibrary Loan Specialist at UCONN's Babbidge Library, has created PowerPoint presentations which help her effectively train her student employees. These presentations can be easily adapted to train staff members in any number of areas in the library.

Since training is a never-ending, time consuming task in our departments, we need to be efficient in how we train staff. There are many ways of doing it but in the world of academia, you need to be fast and adaptable since the students are only there for short periods of time. It is also difficult to find a learning system that will adapt well to multiple learning styles and will be efficient to use. After attempting several ways of training, UCONN's ILL department is now using PowerPoint presentations as a training tool.

The first two presentations that Terry created explained procedures for UCONN's ILS, Alma and their ILL Management software, ILLiad. She broke tasks down into small pieces and then created the PowerPoints to be easy to follow, with hyperlinks to other areas of the workflow. When using these materials, UCONN set up workstations with dual monitors with the presentations of software specific tasks on one machine. So, a student will work with ILLiad tasks at one workstation and Alma tasks at the other workstation. She has found this to greatly help the students and free her up to do her job.

Reporter: Kimberly Farrington

Homelessness in Libraries

Library staff accept the homeless as a part of their patron population and embrace them. Library staff get to know the idiosyncrasies of the patrons so they can handle them with care. The library panelists shared how they deal with the homeless, from getting to know them by name, creating programs for them, and establishing policies surrounding their behavior.

Sarah Fox from the CT Coalition to End Homelessness was encouraged by how libraries work with the homeless and would like to engage libraries in further conversations in the near future. Sarah described how stressful it is to be homeless and that her organization

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Faith Hektoen Winners

Jane Ash

During her time at the Scranton Memorial Library, Jane has awed coworkers with intelligence, drive, stamina, resourcefulness, and her ability to touch and impact the lives of patrons in Madison and beyond. While under Jane's supervision the Scranton library won the Governor's Award for Outstanding Public Library and School Partnership in 2005. Jane's vision, which has forged a bond between the public library and elementary schools, is a key element in successful early education. Several years ago Jane and the preschools in Madison came together to form the Early Childhood Coalition. The coalition promotes training for the benefit of educators, librarians, parents, and especially the town's children.

A previous CLA Children's Section co-chair herself, Jane has always been innovative and nontraditional. She presented sessions that incorporated math into children's programs, was one of the first to recognize picture books by subject and established Madison's first Destination Imagination Team, who took second place at the state championship

Jane's passion and dedication has made her a favorite among Madison families. ♦

Marissa Correia

As a dynamic one-person department, Miss Marissa has expanded the children's and teen programming at the Huntington Branch Library in Shelton exponentially. Every Monday afternoon at the Huntington Branch Library, children in the community can be assured that Marissa will have an exciting interactive program ready for them from learning from volcano experiments to baking tasty treats to making creative crafts. Along with her already beloved toddler storytimes and show and tell storytimes, Marissa has also instituted a new sensory storytime that is geared for children with autism and designed for families seeking a library experience where movement is encouraged and senses are engaged. Through her work, Marissa is making a real difference in the lives of the young people in our community.

Before coming to the Huntington Branch Library, Marissa had already made a huge impact while working at the Oxford Library. Colleague Gen Francis states "I've never seen a more dedicated, enthusiastic, present children's librarian. When she does a program, she's right there with the children. The respect she has for children and that they have for her is a rare gem. She truly enjoys her job and the children appreciate it. I admire her inclusive nature and her programs reflect this. And it was not just children, but teens as well. Oxford is a one-room library, and Marissa had teens show up for book clubs. No massive computer lab to entice them, yet they came." ♦



Quote about award winners

Chris Bacchiocchi and Beth Grimes

These two fun, smart, and imaginative people have created the outstanding #Meetup Program series for folks ages 18 to 34; bringing Millennials into the library and keeping them coming back. Library associate Chris is a natural teacher, showing folks the ins and outs of our uCreate makerspace, and librarian Beth is an inspired discussion leader and talented thespian (really, you should see her Sybill Trelawney!) Both Beth and Chris make the library a fun place where patrons learn, create, and share!



The crew from Middletown



The Colin McEnroe Show



stefanie @bulldogandbooks · May 4

Youth services should speak the same language as students and teachers, even if we dislike leveling books! #CLAcon



Essex Library staff show off their temporary tattoos

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

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sees providing housing as the first step in helping the homeless, not finding them a shelter. If someone has housing it brings stability to their lives, and then they can begin the next step in putting their lives back together. She described how the state has organized communication between agencies and simplified the process for people to reach out for help - dial 211.

At the end of the session, another issue was brought up - how to deal with people who won't come to the library because there are homeless people in the library. There was no time to discuss this but it would be a good follow-up session. Further follow-up with the CT Coalition to End Homelessness will help libraries further understand the homeless, how to deal with them and what kind of help is available for them.

Reporter: Janet Valencis

Jon Katz—Talking to Animals



Jon Katz arrived at the CLA presentation with his wife, Maria Wulf, and one of his dogs, Red, a border collie. Gail Thompson-Allen of Russell Library, a member of the CLA RASS, introduced the author, who is a prolific author of 25 books, a mentor, and now a friend of hers. The author's dog, Red, was the immediate star of the presentation,

and Katz discussed how Red came into his life. Red was an abused dog who was rescued from Ireland and sent to Virginia. The rescuer, a complete stranger to the author, contacted Katz because she thought that Red was meant to be with him, and she persisted for months until Katz relented and took the dog in. He discussed the strong bond that he has with this dog. Red is an excellent sheep herding dog, as well as a trained therapy dog. Katz and Red often visit their local hospice to bring comfort to the patients there.

Katz talked about how this latest book came to be written, how he feels about human to animal appreciation, and his opinions about the publishing industry. He presented a slideshow of his photographs. These photos can be viewed on the author's blog, www.bedlamfarm.com. He also discussed his distress at the "emotionalization" of animals, and how humans put their own emotions on animals too much these

days. Thought-provoking questions were asked and Katz gave his opinions about these topics.

Jon Katz wrote about the event on his blog: <http://bedlamfarm.com/?s=red>

Reporter: Lisa Gugliotti

Technical Services Programs

The CLA Technical Services Section sponsored two break-out sessions at the annual conference on Thursday, May 4. Kyle K. Courtney, a renowned Harvard Scholar, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about how librarians can take advantage of certain copyright laws to benefit their patrons. Using interesting examples such as Sonny Bono and Mickey Mouse, he explained the Copyright Term Extension Act. He presented valuable information spanning from the history of copyright to the tribulations librarians can expect moving further into the digital age. The second session was presented by Laurie Haggan, current chair, CLA Technical Services Section, acquisitions specialist, University of Hartford, and owner & founder of TheCybrarians.com and Gail M. Syring, program administrator, Health Education & Wellness, University of Hartford. They spoke about managing diverse employees in a library setting. Presenting real-life scenarios, attendees were shown what they can do to foster good working environments, set expectations, commend good work practices and discipline employees when necessary.

Reporter: Laurie Haggan

Children's Section Programs

Maker Literacy

Presenters: Lynn Pawloski & Cindy Wall, Authors of the "Maker Cookbook"

Lynn Pawloski and Cindy Wall led a workshop detailing how and why you can make "maker programming" work for young children. From beginner coding to traditional crafts, their hands-on programs engage and delight their patrons. Workshop attendees left armed with both ideas for specific programs as well as resources with many different applications.

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Levels and Numbers and Letters, Oh My: Leveled Readers in the Public Library

Presenter: Marie Jarry, Youth and Family Services Director, Hartford Public Library

With experience in both public schools and multiple library systems, Marie shared her expertise in leveling beginning readers by first explaining several commonly used leveling systems. She also shared many resources such as conversion charts, leveling websites, and related apps. Finally, she shared a step-by-step plan library staff can use to make it easy for parents to find books on their child's level and the impact it's had on her libraries.

A Piece of the Puzzle: Welcoming Patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenters: April Jones, Everybody Plays Coordinator, Simsbury Public Library; Barbara Klipper, Founder, Autism Welcome Here Grant

April Jones began the workshop by giving attendees a better understanding of autism spectrum disorder and outlining some ways that traditional library services and programs could be modified to better suit their needs. Barbara Klipper also shared practical ways to make patrons on the spectrum feel welcome in libraries, along with ways to find funding. Attendees were also invited to try out many sensory toys and tools that were set up in the back of the room.

Supporting Young Readers

Presenters: Angela Buccheri, K-2 Literacy Coach, Wallingford Public Schools; Jamie Hocking-Ferrone, 3-5 Literacy Coach, Wallingford Public Schools

Angela Buccheri and Jamie Hocking-Ferrone began their workshop by summarizing each stage of reading skill development for typical school-aged children. They shared booklists appropriate for each stage as well as ideas for how library staff can support each step of the reading journey. They went on to identify and discuss ways to support parents and continued learning at home. Finally, they discussed some of the hurdles primary grade teachers are facing in teaching literacy and ideas for how public librarians can come alongside public school teachers to overcome challenges.

Educator's Laboratory

Presenters: Madelyn Ardito, Director of Education, Long Wharf Theatre; Barbara Hentschel, Resident Teaching Artist, Long Wharf Theatre

Madelyn Ardito and Barbara Hentschel facilitated an extremely participatory workshop where attendees practiced several different acting games that encourage creativity, empathy, and teamwork while also supporting language acquisition, storytelling and re-telling skills, punctuation, and reading fluency. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on what the process felt like, how it could help students developing skills and sense of self, and how acting games could be integrated into new or existing library programs.



CTLibraryConsortium @CLCct · May 5
Libraries are intellectual first responders.

Reporter: Sunnie Scarpa

Quote about award winner

Greg Davis

"Greg willingly puts in long hours as a board member. He is an energizing force, bringing into focus core issues and how to resolve them. He is results-driven. He sticks to his commitments. He regularly attends staff meetings, staff events, civic events, and library program events. He is frequently out in the community identifying and establishing relationships, such as HPL's precedent-setting partnership with Hartford Public Schools. In the warmer months, he can often be found walking from his office in downtown Hartford to a neighborhood branch during his lunch hour. He cares deeply about the community, especially its children, making sure the library serves their needs."

People in the News

Alena Principato is the new member relations manager at the **CT Library Consortium**. Alena is a recent graduate of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she was selected for the prestigious Carolina Academic Library Associate program.



Karen Ronald has resigned as the town librarian for the **Fairfield Public Library** where she worked for more than 10 years.

Sally Tornow, director of the **New Milford Public Library**, has been elected to the board of directors of **CLC** for a three-year term. She will be serving on the personnel committee.

At the **Hamden Public Library**, **Nancy McLaughlin**, head of children's services, retired April 30.

Kate Noonan, recent Simmons College MLIS graduate, has joined the staff at the **Henry Carter Hull Library** in Clinton as a reference and instruction librarian. Kate will be overseeing the new Innovation space at the library as well as working in reference. Kate also works at the Mary Cheney Library in Manchester and the Noah Webster Library in West Hartford.

Henry Carter Hull YA librarian **Cathleen Cole** received the Morgan School Peer Advocate True Spirit Award at the annual induction ceremony this May. The award was presented by two high school students who work closely with Cathleen on various projects and events at the library.

Dr. Cantrell Johnson, reference and instruction librarian at **Eastern Connecticut State University**, recently graduated with PhD in Library and Information Science from University of South Carolina.

Kim White will be departing from her position as children's librarian at the **Cheshire Public Library** in mid-June to accept a community engagement position at Broward County Libraries in Florida.

Mary Quinn, 18-year-old page at the **Fairfield Woods Branch** just had her first book published. The novel is titled *Thorn in My Side*. Congrats! [Read this article for more information.](#)

Nicole Greco, library assistant at the **Milford Public Library** and former CLA treasurer, was honored during May as Employee of the Month for the City of Milford.

Lauren Coleman, youth service assistant, has resigned from **Portland Library** and is devoting her many talents to help develop and support the newly opened Wesleyan/RJ Julia bookstore in Middletown.

Jennifer Billingsley started as **Russell Library's** new director of youth and family learning on May 15. She was previously manager of the Cedar Lake Branch of the Lake County Public Library.

The **Shelton Library System** is very happy to welcome **Joan Stokes** as library director. She was the assistant head librarian/children's librarian for many years in Southbury and has also worked at the Oxford Library as children's/teen librarian, at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield as a library consultant and as an adjunct professor in literature at Southern Connecticut State University. Joan also served as the state chairman for the Nutmeg Book Award. Joan replaces **C. Elspeth Lydon**, who retired in November 2016.

Hartford Public Library CEO **Bridget Quinn-Carey** was presented with a Rising Star Award from Metro Hartford Library, Thursday, June 8, at the Power of Leadership breakfast at the Connecticut Convention Center. HPL was cited for "making sustainable differences in our City and Region."



Adam Delaura, systems librarian extraordinaire at the **Mansfield Public Library**, has left to open a brewery with friends - Labyrinth Brewing Company in Manchester.

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People in the News

After 31 years of service, **Jean Schweid** will retire from the **Groton Public Library** on July 14. There is no way to fully account for the multitude of ways Jean enhanced library programs and services but during her time as a reference librarian, she served as editor of the library's *Connections* newsletter, coordinated hundreds of author visits and lectures, and captained the library's very popular *World of Words* program, a month-long event that brings the people, books, art, and culture of a different country into the library. A music lover and supporter of the arts, Jean expertly cultivated the library's music CD collection and biographies. The Groton Public Library staff agree that no one could ask for a better person to work with or a stronger advocate for library services. "She's a remarkable person," says Supervisor of Public Services, Jenn Miele. "We can't imagine the library without her." Jean plans to dance often and spend more time with her family and friends. She also promises to continue on at the Groton Public Library as a volunteer and substitute librarian. We'll be holding Jean to that promise! (By Kim Balentine)



NPR Talk Show Host Colin McEnroe and Jean Schweid at the 2017 CLA Annual Conference.

New CLA President



Outgoing CLA president Karen Jensen (l) passes the gavel to incoming president Glenn Grube, director of the Avon Free Public Library.

Quote about award winner

Susan Honer

"Susan's work stands out in a world where there are many community events and programs for people to pick from. Susan creates one-of-a-kind graphics that are creative and of superior quality. Beyond the fact that she holds herself to a very high standard for her work, she embodies the reason that the CLA Support Staff Award is given. Without Susan to create these wonderful visuals to attract our patron to events and programs, we would not have as many attendees to our events. Susan's work is paramount in cutting through all the clutter and noise of today's world and getting our events noticed."

Conference Thank you

Thank you to everyone who came out to attend the 126th Annual CLA Conference at the beautiful Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Mystic. This year's conference was all about navigating and embracing the always transforming world of librarianship. We hope you left the conference feeling inspired with a renewed sense of pride for the work we do and the difference we make in our communities. CLA is about coming together to achieve our common goals, and the conference is no exception. We would like to thank the following people for their hard work to pull off another great year at CLA:

- The CLA section and committee chairs, who planned and managed so many excellent breakout programs;
- The presenters and keynote speakers, who shared their many experiences and knowledge with all of us;
- Jennifer Keohane, Trish Palmer, and the entire staff of CLC, who helped immensely with registration and exhibitor support;
- All of the exhibitors and sponsors, who help make this conference possible;
- Exhibits Chairs Katy Dillman and Brandie Doyle, who helped secure so many fantastic vendors for you to meet and talk with;
- Eric Berlin, who organized and planned the Escape Room event;
- Jen Datum, who documented the conference and assisted with online registration and setup;
- Kirk Morrison and Tina Panik, for help with conference planning and event setup, and for staffing the registration desk;
- All of the volunteers who staffed the registration desk;
- Karen Jensen, 2017 CLA President, who provided support and guidance throughout the conference planning process;
- Glenn Grube, CLA vice president, who helped with planning and provided support and guidance;
- The library directors, boards, and friends groups who provide encouragement and support for their staff to attend the conference;
- And to the dedicated co-workers who covered desks and programs so that others could attend. We hope to see you at next year's conference!

Kristina Edwards & Sara Martone
2017 CLA Conference co-chairs

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