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## Save the Date

2015 Annual Conference

April 27—28, 2015



At the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Groton

## Happy Retirement, Mary Engels!

**Congratulations to Mary Engels on her retirement. Mary has provided invaluable service to people and libraries of Connecticut as a dedicated employee of the Connecticut State Library for 30 years.**

**For an article highlighting her career, see p. 6. Here is a sampling of how Mary influenced Connecticut libraries and librarians during her tenure:**

Knowing that Mary was a phone call away was reassuring to me as both a new director and in various roles at CLA. I always knew that her approach to any question would be calm, knowledgeable and thoughtful. I'll miss her and the fun we had on the CLA Publicity Committee – but maybe not those crazy days spent hanging hundreds of library photos for the annual display at the LOB!

*Betty Anne Reiter, Director  
Groton Public Library*

Mary has had a tremendous impact on Russell Library and me personally with her always helpful assistance with materials and programs. She has been equally helpful with our Board and Friends through her coordination of the state organizations. And I must mention her very cheerful, positive communication skills! May her retirement years be just as powerful and un-retiring!

*Arthur S. Meyers, Director  
Russell Library*

Mary's bright smile and easy advice will stand out for me always. She has a way of remembering all our names and coming up with just the right answers when we need them. Definitely there will be some hard shoes to fill. Whether it was building up a friends



# Report on ALA Annual Conference

by Cathy Ahern, Russell Library



*“Transformation” was a buzzword that worked its way into program descriptions and meetings. Moving and transforming brings libraries deeper into their communities and expands on more traditional roles.*

With generous assistance from the [Friends of the Russell Library](#) I recently attended the [annual conference of the American Library Association](#). For the first time, this very large event was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Aside from the heat, which may be dry but at 105-110 degrees is still pretty hot, the very large Las Vegas Conference Center with adjoining Las Vegas Hilton worked very well as a venue. There is a monorail that goes from the strip right to the conference center, reasonable and clean transportation. Most meetings and discussions were held there (with the exception of some evening awards and dinners), and the exhibit hall is more than spacious.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Librarians on the Move.” “Transformation” was a buzzword that worked its way into program descriptions and meetings. Moving and transforming brings libraries deeper into their communities and expands on more traditional roles. Relabeling what we do was the focus of attention in several meetings. To get a bigger “slice of the financial pie,” as one speaker observed, libraries have to be considered “hard services,” as valued as police and school systems. Several meetings put more of an emphasis on language, what we call ourselves. One library, in an effort to restore lost funding, took to describing staff as instructors or researchers, and partnered to a greater extent with schools in the community and other agencies. The outcome was a positive one, funds were restored and this library continues to build on its efforts.

Despite the emphasis on recreating the image of the library, perennial problems exist. I attended several sessions on library programming, whether

it is for older adults, business community, etc. Attendance, attendance, attendance, actually the lack thereof and getting people into the library is an issue everywhere. Several speakers noted a decline in attendance over the last few years. The issue of the most effective way to reach library users did not yield a definitive answer. I heard all camps, including plastering the library with flyers, email, direct mail, social media, notices in the local newspaper and postings with social agencies and churches and schools. Some libraries reported more success than others. The bottom line is that libraries have to continue to partner with others in their area, and talk, talk, talk up events and what we uniquely offer to our community.

There was a good energy around the conference. Since the last annual that I attended, which is a few years ago now, I notice some changes that have been made that are very positive. The sessions have been shortened, except for some of the special meetings such as the President’s Program. There are also “conversation starter” events that happen every day. These run about 90 minutes and are very focused on topics that are pertinent to libraries or trending topics. One of the best ones that I attended was “Tech Priorities for the New Library.” The speaker was Sarah Houghton who has somewhat of a reputation as the “Librarian in Black” with a blog of the same name. She had practical tips to consider for libraries that are doing a revamp of their technology offerings. For example, she emphasized the importance of establishing priorities BEFORE working out a budget for the project. The point of these sessions is to offer a succinct presentation

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and allow time for conversation and idea sharing among participants. These worked well when the speakers stuck to their 20 minutes or so of a presentation. The concept is a good one and there were plenty of microphones around for attendees to share ideas and questions. In some cases the room layout could have been better for this type of event.

Before I conclude this report I do want to mention a fairly new group in the ALA realm, [United for Libraries](#). This group was formed a few years ago, combining the ALA Friends of the Library group with the section for Library Trustees. Their programs and events were very well done and on point, and very pro library. The “Getting a Bigger Piece of the Pie” meeting, about how libraries can work to obtain as much funding as possible, was full of wonderful ideas. One of the first steps suggested is to make sure that your Friends of the Library and Library Trustees or Foundation are on the same page. Presenters spoke of the importance of collaboration between these two groups, whether it is in planning a fund raiser, connecting with outside groups and agencies (which several speakers felt was an important role of Trustees and Friends). Change the mindset about fund raising, instead of thinking that there is not enough of the pie to go around, think instead that there is enough for your needs. Have evenings in the stacks, bring in literary figures, fundraising does not have to be so lavish as to seem overwhelming. Target your audience and their needs. Other tips include taking a close look at the library’s mission statement. Keep the emphasis in the statement on the value, the educational benefits, low key the entertainment portion if it makes the library seem “disposable.” Another fun idea, use children and dogs when you go out and advocate for funds, connect as you can to the community.

United for Libraries also sponsored a wonderful evening program, “Laugh Out Loud,” where four authors, funny themselves, spoke about their works, the writing process, and their connection to libraries. There was wine, cheese, fruit and free signed books for all. I was impressed with the positivity in the room and had great conversations at my table with librarians from all different areas and types of libraries. ♦

## Message from the President

By Dawn LaValle, CLA President 2014-2015

I am very pleased to announce that the Connecticut Library Association is one of 22 ALA Chapters selected to participate in the ALA Career Development Facilitator Program. Jenna Mayotte, Business Resource Center Coordinator at the Simsbury Public Library has been selected to represent our Chapter. This is a wonderful opportunity for Connecticut to build on the work of so many of our libraries and librarians developing career and small business programs for our community. We look forward to Jenna obtaining her Career Development Facilitator Certification and sharing her knowledge, resources and developing workshops for librarians and libraries in our state.

On a more bittersweet note, we bid farewell to our beloved Mary Engels who served our libraries, Trustees and Friends for more than 30 years. Mary touched so many librarians and we are all grateful for her kindness, knowledge and grace. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Connecticut Library Community for the love they showed in sending Mary off into a well-deserved retirement.

“Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting.”

— J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan* ♦

**Dawn LaValle** is Director of Library Development at the CT State Library



# CT Took Their Libraries to Heart!

by Sally Tornow, Chair of the Public Libraries Section



While September is over and that means the Passport to CT Libraries program has officially ended, the winners have not yet been drawn, so that exciting news will have to wait for the next edition of CLA Today. However, some wonderful stories have been relayed that will hopefully make you want to participate next year if you were reluctant this year.

CLA's Public Library Section organized this program in the hope that people would learn the true value of their library card by going from library to library and seeing for themselves how different we all are. That goal was definitely achieved, since every Passport patron who came into New Milford Public Library was full of the wonder of the different places they had gone.

Before the program even started, a patron came into New Milford asking for the list of participating libraries because she and her husband planned to visit every one of them ... by motorcycle! That probably limited how many items they could check out, but the idea sounds like loads of fun. A retired couple saw the program as an opportunity for an inexpensive vacation, and visited every single library, coming away with scads of pens, bookmarks, pads of paper and their favorite, a coffee mug! And at least two other gentlemen are in competition with them for the most libraries visited, since, they, too, achieved a visit to the entire list. It will be very interesting to see what the final numbers are!

If you haven't looked before this, you must take a peek at the [Passport to CT Libraries Facebook page](#). This is probably the most interesting story of all: Drusilla Carter, Director of Willimantic Library, and the FB page creator, made it her mission to document every single library on the list. While she had a little bit of a head start, she visited and posted pictures of every single library with a commentary on some unique feature. Some libraries stand out, of course, like Guilford Smith Memorial Library with its bathtub; or Goshen Public Library with its knight in shining armor; and, of course, there is her own Willimantic Public Library with its frog.

It's always fun to have new people visit, so if you missed signing up for this year, make sure you keep an eye out for next year's signup! ♦



## Joint ALA/CLA Student Membership Available

Library school students are eligible to join both ALA and the Connecticut Library Association at one low price of **\$35.00** a year. Join both state and national library associations and get connected to your future. Joint student members are full members of both associations, and receive all the benefits accorded to student members in each association. For ALA it includes: 6 issues of American Libraries magazine, weekly e-delivery of AL Direct, bi-monthly Student Direct, discounts on ALA and Division conferences, 10% discounts on ALA Editions and Graphics, access to ALA scholarships, grants and travel opportunities.

For more information, or to join, visit: [ctlibraryassociation.org/join.php](http://ctlibraryassociation.org/join.php)

# Technologies of the Maker Movement

by Julia Faraci

Encompassing creativity, technological innovation, self-directed learning, community resources, academic enrichment, networking, entrepreneurship, green principles, and a do-it-yourself attitude, the maker movement has been exploding in libraries, schools, and dedicated makerspaces. In Connecticut, libraries are scooping up 3-D printers and opening makerspaces. Southington Library has proudly announced the publication of a Maker "cookbook" by two of its librarians. Privately- and community-run makerspaces are active in Hartford, New Haven, and other Connecticut cities.

On September 9, Edward Iglesias, the Systems Librarian at Central Connecticut State University, and Arianna Schlegel, Interim Systems Librarian at Western Connecticut State University, presented a CLC workshop "Technologies of the Maker Movement: A Trendspotting Lab." Resources were presented, hands-on activities were shared, and participants were encouraged to brainstorm future programs and activities for their libraries.

Iglesias presented "Strategic Partnerships in the Library Makerspace." Consideration of community interests and needs is central to the development and funding of a library makerspace. Prospective users and interest groups – children, teens, job seekers, students,

small business owners, artists – can be approached with programs and open houses. Partnerships with community organizations and local businesses were discussed, as well as potential sources of funding.

Make magazine and ALA/LITA Library and Information Technology Association are among the best resources for guidance for starting a makerspace. Because of the do-it-yourself nature of the maker movement, Iglesias adds that mistakes made along the way can actually contribute to the learning experience.

Schlegel discussed different kinds of "Small Electronics for your Makerspace". Raspberry Pi, BeagleBoards and other computers available for under \$100 can be used for many applications including gaming, code writing, or making a weather station. Arduinos, DigiSpark, TI LaunchPad, AVR Butterfly, MaKey MaKey and other microcontrollers can be used to create fun and inexpensive projects with LED lights, batteries, and USB cords. Wearables created with LilyPad, Gemma, and FLORA are lots of fun and even less expensive.

Make magazine, again, can be an excellent resource for choosing the type of processing unit that is right for your particular project.

Using a FLORA, wires, small batteries and LEDs, workshop participants learned to use an Arduino to create a small flashing wearable. Brainstorming issues in the formation of a makerspace, including community involve-



ment and potential projects, rounded out the hands-on component of this idea-provoking workshop.

The presenters emphasized the importance of building to the strengths and interests of the community. The makerspace can be high-tech and complex (and expensive) or simply equipped with donated and found materials.

Equipment can range from computers, microcontrollers and 3-D printers to power tools, soldering irons and art supplies, and just about everything between. Considerations include price, ease of use, application to specific projects, and the makerspaces' audience. Makerspaces address many library ideals, including teaching oneself and others, accessibility of resources, empowerment, and community building. The makerspace is enhanced by the diverse community served by the library. The nature of the makerspace is democratic, so people with a variety of skill sets become active stakeholders. Makerspace participants become involved in creating projects, teaching classes, and facilitating use of the space.

Iglesias and Schlegel addressed the development and technology components indispensable to librarians entering this new wave of library service. This thought-provoking and inspiring workshop gave participants great approaches and new ideas. ♦



# Mary Engels: Career Highlights

By Dawn LaValle, CLA President

Mary Engels has, with grace and good humor served the Connecticut State Library and the greater Connecticut library community for over 30 years, 28 of those as Director of the Middletown Service Center. She gained the respect of librarians, trustees, friends of libraries in our state and beyond.

Mary has been recognized numerous times by her colleagues, receiving the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, Lillian Levin Meritorious Service Award in 2014; and being named the Connecticut Library Association's Outstanding Librarian in 2001.

Throughout her tenure Mary was instrumental in initiating and implementing the transition to a new circulation system at the two library service centers. She has overseen the recent upgrades at the MLSC including the installation of SmartBoards and Discovery Web Streaming technology to better serve the professional development needs of CT librarians.

Mary served the greater library community as liaison to the Association of Connecticut Library Boards providing leadership and consulting resulting in increased membership through outreach and support. And she was critical to the growth of FOCL guiding the organization to a more robust and active membership. She worked to initiate a new friends group for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She initiated the WEL-

COME Group serving the needs of CT's immigrant communities, implementing programs, workshops and maintaining an informational listserv.

Mary organized and oversaw a library visits program ensuring that all libraries in Connecticut were kept up to date on services, programs and resources available through the Division of Library Development. She organized and attended the CT presence at the National Book Festival.

She has faithfully served libraries regionally as a member of the conference committee for NELA as well as ADA Committee Chair, Publicity Committee, Conference Committee Co-Chair and President of CLA. She received the CLA Outstanding Librarian Award for 2001.

Mary is beloved by her staff and the Connecticut Library Community and has always acknowledged and appreciated them and made work more fun through her lovely and pleasant disposition.

Mary has touched all of us in one way or another and we are better librarians, trustees and friends of libraries for having known her.

We appreciate her loyalty and longevity, and wish her many fulfilling, pleasurable and healthy retirement years. ♦



*Mary has touched all of us in one way or another and we are better librarians, trustees and friends of libraries for having known her.*

group or explaining the library board's duties she had a way of knowing just what to say. "An expert is someone who comes from at least 20 miles away and knows the subject as well as you do". Mary Engels is that expert.

*Stasia Motuzick, Director  
Harwinton Public Library*

Mary has been immediately responsive to many questions over the years regarding Friends of Connecticut Libraries and the Association of Connecticut Library Boards. She has helped us many times over the years. We will miss her!

*Julie Culp, Director  
Jonathan Trumbull Library*

Mary's kindness mixed with her professionalism made her a standout librarian and person.

*Sandra Ruoff, Director  
Guilford Free Library*

She was the first librarian I met who worked for the State Library. She must have seen and heard everything three times by the time I became involved in CLA, but she ALWAYS made me feel that whatever I was proposing was a brand new idea. I will miss her knowledge, her kindness, and most of all, her sense of humor, but I am sure she is putting all that to good use in her second career!

*Sally Tornow  
Milford Public Library*

I fondly remember my quarterly visits to the MLSC to borrow large print titles to supplement the Hartford Public Library Sick & Shut-In collection and the Library on Wheels large print collection. Mary was always excited to see me because I literally borrowed hundreds of books at a time due to the high readership of our elderly clientele. During my visits to MLSC I was kept abreast of the recently purchased large print titles and I would often recommend titles for Mary to consider for purchasing. I always felt as if I was her favorite librarian yet I know that she treated everyone who came in the same with that contagious smile and welcoming personality. Of course, the Hartford patrons did not care where the large print titles came from, just as long as we had the latest titles of Louis L'Amour, Mary Higgins Clark, Barbara Cartland, and other authors in that genre available on the shelf as well as autobiographies. Mary made that happen for me. It was a win-win situation for both HPL and MLSC and I will always be grateful that under Mary's leadership she made the Bookmobile look great with "our" fantastic collection.

*Ida D. McGhee, Manger, HPL Library on Wheel Department  
Retired, 2003  
West Kingston, Rhode Island*

## Upcoming Programs

### **CLA Children's Section 2014 Annual Meeting Small Budget. . . BIG IDEAS!**

October 17, 2014  
9:00 AM - 3:45 PM

### **3D Printing at the Library: Makerspace Management**

For librarians curious about the 3D printing craze and want to learn its practical applications. Geared to public and academic libraries.

October 17, 2014  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

### **CLASS (CT Library Association Support Staff) Professional Development 2014 Conference**

An opportunity for library support staff to learn new skills and to network with and learn from fellow support staff members from throughout the state.

November 06, 2014  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

### **CLA Young Adult November Meet-Up**

Recharge Your Programming: Reaching Teens Where They Are

November 07, 2014  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Register online at  
[ctlibraryassociation.org](http://ctlibraryassociation.org)



## We're accepting program proposals!

### CLA Annual Conference 2015 *Magic in Mystic: Delight & Amaze Your Users*

This year's conference will highlight **Design Thinking and User Experience**. Let's share the magic and excitement libraries are creating, and innovate and collaborate to discover new ways to delight and amaze our users!

#### Keynote & Featured Speakers

Steven Bell • Michael Stephens • Aaron Schmidt

#### Tracks

- Create** - technology tools, children or adult programming, grant writing, space planning, design, UX
- Teach** - literacy, technology training for you patrons, library instruction
- Learn** - professional development, community and needs assessments, surveys
- Lead** - management, mentorship, project management
- Connect** - professionally and socially, advocacy, outreach, community, resource sharing, consortia
- Wild Card** - if it doesn't fit in any of the other tracks

- Programs must be sponsored by a CLA member, section, or committee.
- Sponsorship involves all planning, communication, and arrangements.
- A CLA member may sponsor him/herself as a presenter.

#### Have an idea...now what?

- Visit the CLA website 2015 Annual Conference link – You'll need to log in to your CLA Account
- Contact your possible presenter(s) in any manner you're comfortable
- Use the *Information You'll Need to Gather* link as a guide – this contains every detail you'll need to submit your program proposal to us
- Submit your proposal through the *Online Program Submission (Survey Monkey)* also found on the CLA website 2015 Annual Conference link
- Once your program has been approved you'll send your presenter the *Speaker Confirmation Letter* and submit the *Conference Expense Form*

**Deadline for submission of program proposals: November 6**  
*Early submissions are encouraged*

**We're looking forward to a great conference!**

Please contact us with any questions.

2015 CLA Conference Co-Chairs Lisa Karim, [lkarim@simsburylibrary.info](mailto:lkarim@simsburylibrary.info)  
Julie Styles, [julie.styles@ct.gov](mailto:julie.styles@ct.gov)



## CLA Meetups Revived



The Gouveia Winery in Wallingford was the scene of the recently revived CLA Meetups, a chance for CLA members to get together, share ideas and experiences, and have some fun. Pictured from left are Amy Terlaga, Melissa Ceraso, Rebecca Nugent, Sharon Clapp, Christy Billings (in front), Jacqueline Toce, and CLA Membership Chair, Cindy Schofield. ♦

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](mailto:editor@ctlibrarians.org).

[www.ctlibraryassociation.org](http://www.ctlibraryassociation.org)

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