

**Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
December 5th, 2019
Middletown Library Service Center, Middletown
9:30 am Coffee/10:00 am Business Meeting**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Lisa Karim called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **November 7th, 2019 meeting minutes**

A ***motion*** to approve the minutes of November 7th, 2019 was made by Mary Etter, and ***seconded*** by Peter Ciparelli, and was ***approved by a majority. Motion passed.***
Abstentions: Kristina Edwards
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report-Lisa Karim:** See attached for the President's Report.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report-Kristina Edwards:** Kristina asked if everyone reviewed the financials and if there were any questions or comments. She thanked all the sections for their hard work on the fall programs. She will be working with the CLA office to get a clear accounting of the success of each program so that each section has it for their end of year report. Based on the budget the fall programs overall were able to meet the projections. There will be updates to the information about running a program based on some issues that come up with the fall programs to make sure things run more smoothly next fall. She reports that she plans to set up a meeting with financial planner at Charles Schwab before the next Executive Board Meeting. She encouraged everyone to turn their attention to getting the word out about the CLA Conference in Mystic so that we can have a successful conference and meet our financial goals.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Town Hall Meeting Report:** Beth shared a summary of the discussions from the Town Hall Meetings (See attached).
 - b. **CLA Sustainability Task Force:** Lisa reported that Glenn Grube has offered to chair. The Executive Committee will also be serving on the Task Force. Please email Lisa if you are interested in serving on the Task Force from January to June. Lisa will evaluate volunteers for the Task Force as needed and welcomes input from everyone.
 - c. **State Librarian Search Committee Update:** Mary reported that the Committee helped tremendously with the first round of interviews. They are moving forward and learning a lot. Ken Wiggin will be available to help and also then help with the new State Librarian orientation.
 - d. **YA Section Bylaws**

A ***motion*** to approve the bylaws was made by Tom Piezzo, and ***seconded*** by Sam Lee, and was ***approved by a majority. Motion passed.***

Committee/Section/Roundtable/Regional Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Denise reported that the Fall workshop had 110 people in attendance and gave a brief overview of the sessions. All were successful. There were also two trustee awards given for Lifetime Service including elected officials. It was a very successful day and they are already thinking ahead for next year's conference.

ADA: Maria Bernier: Absent

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent.

Dawn reported for the ACLPD resource sharing committee – they are working on communications to share with the greater library community of one shared statewide library system. This will require everyone’s participation and collaboration. The Urban Library Task Force met have two items they are working on: Quick grants for Urbanized libraries identified which will start in January programming, consultants, etc; and professional development for Urban Librarians being offered by the state library, but free and open to everyone, which is planned for March.

ALA: Erin Shea: The Board welcomed Erin back from her Maternity Leave. Erin reported that ALA has selected and hired a new Executive Director, but the name has not been released. ALA will share this information in the early New Year.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: Geri reported that a call for nominations has been sent out for CLA Awards. Entries are due January 31st, 2020.

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux & Robert Kinney: Vivian reported that ALA has a concern with the EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion). They want to focus to educate, inform in all aspects of this profession, on EDI. Profession in this state is not diverse. We need to think about the Task Force, Curriculum, Mentoring, Encouraging people to get into the profession, especially people of color, also for us to try to mentor the people who are coming behind us, and we really need to acknowledge that there are changes that need to be done. The CT and National chapters are concerned about where the profession is going and trying to make a difference. Will be hearing more from the CT chapter as we continue to talk about what is going on on all levels (state, national and international). Where do we go from here? How can you be more inclusive in your area? Have the dialogue on being more inclusive.

Career Development: Laura Horn: Laura reported that they are finalizing the revisions to the scholarship process. This will be publicized in January.

CAS-L: Mary Ellen Minichiello: Mary Ellen reported that they are holding an “Unconference” on March 28th. They had over 500 people who attended their fall conference in Hartford. They are joining with with CECA (Computer Education Committee) to form an investigation committee to look into combining the two organizations. There will be 3 members from each as part of this investigative committee. Mary Ellen reported that would be a huge step if they decided to join the two organizations.

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Jennifer reported on Storytelling Workshops for Librarians in January/February. The four-part series will help librarians build storytelling skills that are applicable to telling any type of story. Information for all events can be found on the CLC website. They also have a Storytelling Roundtable. There was a plug on Advocacy done by WSHU with 4 CT librarians – Beth Crowley (Cheshire), Sheri Syzmanski (Stratford), John ?? (Bridgeport), and Jennifer Keohane (CLC). This is a great thing to share with legislators and your public. They will run Advocacy Bootcamp again on 12/17. They have signed many new contracts. Non-print media includes: Vox and Read Alongs. They are ready to release a new contract for the periodicals subscription service. Jennifer reminded everyone there are 35 Roundtable types, at least 12-13 a month, and that going to a roundtable is a good way to connect with other people. They also now have an Immigration and Multicultural Roundtable. Jennifer gave a heads up on: Sexual Harassment training – they are offering an online, discounted version. Some municipalities may not be compliant with the free resources, so there is a lower cost Human Resources-endorsed alternative and they will offer a flat rate discount on creating a sexual harassment policy. They are also hoping to roll out with a healthcare option for small libraries with 3 or more employees or with only 1 employee. CLC staff has been going to national conferences – one of their initiatives is to bring national ideas to the CT community. CLC is planning to do a massive meet-up to share all of the “best ideas” that they’ve collected at these conferences. If you attended or are going to attend any national conference, please let them know for the shared meet-up of ideas.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Colleen reported from the CET Meeting on December 2nd:

Looking to add some additional members to the CET board coming from education; with a secondary teacher, and elementary ed teacher

Continued discussion on OER resources. Need to talk about training and support in finding, creating, curating and licensing OER.

Commission looking to file a PEGPETIA grant on behalf of supporting statewide educational initiatives (I will be assisting on that front from the library's perspective)

Colleen also reported that CT Library Fiber Consortium project continues; when current phase is complete will bring total libraries connected to fiber to 70% or 168 out of 239 statewide (47 being branches). Also, CEN continues looking at expanding services with managed firewall service, cloud connect service, and working on EduRoam project with Hartford and Middletown, hopefully helping to bridge the digital divide for students after school.

CSL: Ken Wiggin: See attached for Ken's report.

Children's: Allison Murphy & Michele Kaminski: Michele reported that the Section submitted 13 proposals for the Conference.

College & University: Lisa Thornell: Lisa reported that they are looking for keynote speakers for the Info Lit Conference in June.

CLASS: Carolann Slayton: Absent.

Robbie reported that they will have a wrap up meeting next Tuesday, 12/10, at MLSC.

Conference 2020: Stephanie Prato & Chris Carney: Chris reported that submissions closed – 77 submissions total for presentations for Conference. They currently have about 7 sponsorships so far. They are working on going through submissions and hoping to have a rough schedule by end of year or beginning of January.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: No report.

Customer Service: Shelley Holley: No report

Development & Planning: Carl Anonucci: Absent

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Vacant. Please get in touch with Lisa K. if interested.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Sam reported that:

The book, "Prince and Knight" by Daniel Hack was pulled by the Upshur County public library in West Virginia.

The Citrus County Commission in Florida revisited funding the library's New York Times digital subscription and voted it down, again 3-2. The library is continuing their print subscription of New York Times, though with the digital subscription the library would have saved \$300.

Lexington Park Library in Maryland had a drag queen story time. The sheriff deployed deputies and now the board of commissioners are withholding money from the library for the cost of the deputies. Former Attorney General wrote a good op-ed about the issue. https://www.somdnews.com/enterprise/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/commissioners-stripping-funding-from-library-was-unconstitutional/article_e0cf16d4-86a2-5ec3-9400-586a5fd0a62a.html

CLA's organizational membership to the Freedom to Read Foundation was renewed by donation from Sam.

ALA is offering 2 e-courses: First Amendment and Library Services by Theresa Chmara (general counsel for FTRF) <https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/first-amendment-and-library-services-ecourse> and Privacy, Libraries, Patrons and the Law by Deborah Caldwell-Stone. <https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/privacy-libraries-patrons-and-law-ecourse>

And a reminder to report 2019 challenges to OIF, use this link. <http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report>

Legislative: Beth Crowley & Mary Etter: Beth reported that she attended the Lobbyist Conference that Gallo & Robinson put on and it was very helpful. She and Mary also attended the Freshmen Legislator Panel with Gallo & Robinson and it was very well done. They have a meeting on Monday with the Lieutenant Governor in regards to the \$500,000 extra in Census money.

LGBTQ+: Kristina Lareau & Marissa Bucci: Marissa reported that they are talking about CLA Conference and the EDI Statement.

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Trish reported that she has some outreach and incentive ideas for joining CLA and she will be discussing these ideas with the Committee. If you are interested in joining the committee, please see or email Trish.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent.

Mary mentioned that starting in January publicity will come out for NELLs 2, which is the 3 day Symposium (Tues-Thurs 8/11-13) for people who have worked in libraries for 15 years or longer.

Newsletter/Website Editor: Jen Datum: Jen reminded people to use the CLA email in addition to ConnTech. If you need to learn how to see the members of your section using StarChapter, just ask Jen. Continue to keep the lines of communication with the CLC/CLA office so that when people call, the office is informed and can give them the correct information. The December/January newsletter will be released on 16th.

PEG: Peter Ciparelli: No report

Publicity & Communications: Leah Farrell: Leah reminded everyone that if you need help with any publicity for any CLA stuff, just let her know. The Publicity Awards are coming up soon – submissions deadline will be end of January.

Procedures: Catherine Potter: Cathy reported that she is going over bylaws for all the different sections and would like for the Section Chairs to preview their own bylaws because they may need to be updated. She is looking for people to review the Association bylaws because with the addition of a new section, we will need to have Bylaws revised and approved.

Public Library: Maria Zervos: Maria reported that they had a small but engaged group at their Fall Workshop. The Passport to CT Libraries registration has gone out through CLA email and will go out through ConnTech soon. Please spread the word because they'd love to have every library do it this year.

Reference & Adult Services: Matt Earls: No report

Resource Sharing: Steve Cauffman: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Arlene reported that they are in the final stage of the accreditation process now. They've finished a draft of the last required document, the Self Study, and it's being looked at by a variety of people. It will be the focus of their Advisory Board meeting in January. February 10th is the due date for the Self Study document to be sent to the Committee on Accreditation. The Committee of Accreditation's visiting team will be here toward the end of March. Their visit is for three days and we will be making arrangements for them to meet with students, graduated, employers, and members of the CT library community. The Committee will meet in April to consider the outcome of

the visitation and to determine whether to recommend us for accreditation. The official announcement will be made at the ALA Annual Conference in June.

Technical Services: Dana Hanford: No report

Technology: Genevieve Francis: CEN having their own roundtables/Town Halls. Fairfield University 12/6 from 10-12. Visit their website for more information on what will be going on. 12/13 in Litchfield Advanced. Have already had 3 They are trying to get input from their members. Gen encourages people to go to the meetings and see what is going on with Technology in CT.

Young Adult: Brittany Pearson & Samantha Connell: Samantha reported that their meetup was on Veterans Day. They raised \$1,100.

Region 1: Travis Feder: Absent. See attached for Region 1 report.

Region 2: Susan C. Ray: Susan reported that:

The University of Hartford Harrison Libraries wants to remind those attending the University that heading into final exams the library will be open 24/7 from Dec. 11 until Dec.21.

Burlington Public Library reports that their Annual Friends of the Library Cookie Sale will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 10:00am until Sold Out. People may purchase an assortment of two-dozen cookies for \$15.00 and all proceeds go to support the Burlington Public Library.

The Bristol Public Library will be hosting "It's A Wonderful Life Live Radio Play" by Herstory Theater on Saturday, December 14, 2:00 pm. It's Christmas Eve, 1946, in the broadcast studio at WBFR, Manhattan and everyone is invited to be part of the studio audience. Based on the classic holiday movie there's a clever twist thrown in: the story is staged as a live radio broadcast, complete with live Foley artist and commercial jingles.

The Southington Public Library Children's Department is sponsoring "A Book On Every Bed" through December 26th. To ensure that every child experiences the joy of reading this holiday season, the Library wants to give adult caregivers a free book for each of their children with a valid Southington library card. The book may be placed on the child's bed, while they are sleeping, the night before their special day and when they wake the child may open it immediately making their first gift a positive reading experience.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Leslie reported that Mansfield opened their training to members of their region. Racial Microaggression will be speaking to staff and anyone else who wants to come. Change the Subject DVD Documentary from Dartmouth. January 6th and 7th. She will be going to Willimantic for reception for New Director.

Region 4: Geri Diorio: Geri reported that: Bridgeport Public Library is pleased to announce the following recent promotions: Kristin Graf has been promoted from a part-time to full-time children's Librarian at Burroughs Library. Nykia Eaddy and Louis Rodriguez have been promoted to Branch Managers at our Newfield Branch (opening Feb 2020) and East Side Branch libraries, respectively.

Bridgeport programs: glass bottle snow people, the UB's University singers, Basic Bachata Dancing and also circus skills workshops

Norwalk Public Library has a new, electric "pop up library" bookmobile.

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached for the Region 5 report.

Region 6: Gale Bradbury: Gale reported that:

Waterford Public Library was one of four libraries in the state awarded a library construction grant by the Connecticut State Library Board. Our project is an upgrade/major alteration to the library's HVAC system.

East Lyme will be hosting it's annual winter solstice concert on Tuesday December 17th. All are welcome.

Many libraries have scheduled holiday related events from craft sales and holiday crafts to visits with Mrs. Claus.

Ledyard received a grant valued at \$4500 for software and staff training to provide weekly coding sessions for one year. The library will provide the space with computers and the staff to facilitate the sessions. The grant is made possible to small and rural libraries from IMLS, North Dakota State Library, Linda Braun, Crystle Martin, and Prenda.

Nancy Brewer is retiring after 30 years as Ledyard's Children's Librarian. Her colleagues are invited to stop in to wish her well at Bill Library from 3:00 – 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 11.

5. Adjournment

A ***motion*** to adjourn at was made at 11:24 am by Leslie McDonough, and was ***seconded*** by Tom Piezzo, and was ***unanimously approved. Motion passed.*** No abstentions.

Attendance: Lisa Karim, Tom Piezzo, Kate Byroade, Kristina Edwards, Danielle Valenzano, Erin Shea, Susan Ray, Leslie McDonough, Geri Diorio, Robbie Marshall, Gale Bradbury, Michelle Kaminski, Lisa Thornell, Marissa Bucci, Maria Zervos, Matt Earls, Steve Cauffman, Dana Hanford, Genevieve Francis, Laura Horn, Chris Carney, Shelley Holley, Sam Lee, Mary Etter, Beth Crowley, Trish Tomlinson, Cathy Potter, Peter Ciparelli, Leah Farrell, Gerald Seagrave, Vivian Bordeaux, Jennifer Keohane, Colleen Bailie, Ken Wiggin, Jennifer Datum, Arlene Bielfield, Lisa Comstock, Barbara Johnson, Mary Ellen Minichiello

President's Report – Lisa Karim

Thank you to Beth for facilitating the Town Hall meeting listening tour of all 6 regions. Thank you to the Region Reps for coordinating and to Tom and Kate for attending. WE heard a great deal of valuable feedback which will be helpful to the organization as we move forward.

Kym Powe has had to step down as the Grants/Fundraising Chair. If you know of anyone who might be interested in filling this important role, please have them contact me.

The Legacy Fund has raised \$4,303 to date. With the pledged match, the Legacy Fund is only \$65 short of its 2019-2020 goal. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Thank you to Sam Lee and Tom for coordinating the Banned Bands event which also raised money for the Fund. Legacy Fund money is being used to support operating expenses this year.

On the date of his last CLA Board meeting, Lisa thanked Ken for his many years of dedicated service to and advocacy for CT libraries and wished him well in retirement.

As the library community embraces equity, diversity and inclusion, it would be beneficial for CLA to pass a resolution on this topic. Lisa has reached out to the Chairs of the ADA, Intellectual Freedom, LGBTQ+ sections and BCALA and has asked them to collaboratively draft a statement which may be reviewed by the Executive Committee and adopted by the Board at an upcoming meeting. Sam Lee took the initiative and created a draft which she shared with the section Chairs.

Immediate Past President Kate Byroade spoke about the May 8th Past Presidents' Author Event at the Blackstone Library in Branford. Matthew Dicks, author of *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend* and *Twenty-one Truths About Love*, will be a featured author. Other authors may also attend. The event starts at 5:30pm and advance ticket sales will be to CLA members only.

Connecticut Library Association Regional Town Hall Meetings – Beth Crowley

Overview

Initiated by the CLA Legislative Committee, town-hall style meetings were held in each of the six regions from September 2019-November 2019. The meetings were scheduled with the help of the six CLA Region Representatives who coordinated with the host library and publicized the events to their region members. All members of the library community including staff from academic, public and school libraries, Friends of the Library and Trustees were invited to participate. In total, approximately 70 members of the Connecticut library community participated. There was cross-over participation in some regions as participants were encouraged to attend any meeting that was convenient whether or not it was in their region. CLA Legislative Co-Chair, Beth Crowley facilitated the discussion and members of the current CLA Executive Committee were in attendance at each meeting.

Goals

The main goals of the meetings were to:

1. provide a forum within each CLA region where library community members could conveniently gather to share concerns with CLA Leadership.
2. discover issues of importance to the CT Library community to help inform and develop the CLA Legislative Agenda.
3. uncover reasons for the stagnation in membership in CLA and ways the Association can better serve its members.
4. offer current feedback from the Library Community to the new State Librarian

Major Findings

Twelve hours of discussion and over 50 pages of notes taken. While there were some differences in concerns based on the characteristics of a particular geographical location, many of the issues were consistent across all regions. The following are the top concerns that were raised by members of all regions.

Connecticut State Library

- **DeliverIt**

- The return of the interlibrary loan delivery system to a more consistent and reliable service was the top concern among all regions.
- Participants felt this was an extremely important, long-standing provision that brought added value to their patrons and saved their libraries money in purchasing and interlibrary loan costs. Now they are seeing decreases in circulation and increases in costs and patron dissatisfaction.
- Participants said they find it difficult to relate to the more aspirational work of the CSL, such as EXCITE, when the fundamentals of library service are not working.
- Concerns were expressed about the quality of the communication and customer service provided by the CSL to libraries regarding this issue. Participants hope this will improve in the future and the tone will be more collaborative and customer-friendly.
- While there was disagreement about whether the CSL should bear sole financial responsibility for DeliverIt, most hoped this would be a service the CSL would continue to provide or manage as a vendor-provided service. Many think it would be ideal for libraries in Connecticut to become part of one state-wide library system rather than broken up into three consortiums and stand-alone libraries.

- **BorrowIT**

- While not a wide-spread concern, there was some discussion of the BorrowIt reimbursement.

- Libraries would like to have their transit ILL's to be counted towards their out-of-town borrows.
- A concern was raised that the program can create disparity when a well-funded library is better able to meet the needs of a neighboring town. Such a library will receive more BorrowIt funding further adding to the divide.
- **RequestIT/FindIT**
 - Holdings need to be updated more frequently.
 - FindIT is "clunky" so libraries are not using it.

Connecticut Library Association

- **Membership**
 - Location of events can be a deterrent for members in some of the more remote regions. Region 1 participants indicated that a drive of more than 90 minutes was problematic and that the Mystic Conference Location is too far. Region 3 shared similar views about traveling particularly with the loss of the WLSC. Participants suggested holding events within regions and rotating meetings around the state or providing a remote access option.
 - Part-Time employees have difficulty getting to professional development events due to their work/home schedules. Would like training options that could be done from home or within their libraries on work time such as webinars.
 - Dues might be prohibitive for lower paid employees.
 - Participants would like more training options for support staff or non-librarian staff members. Many don't feel CLA membership is for them.
 - Some feel CLA is too public library focused.
 - It was expressed that membership might be more appealing if there was a personalized invitation to join with a message about "Why CLA Needs Me."
 - Libraries could provide prospects to CLA when hiring new employees.
 - When people have joined they have not received follow up messages from CLA or Committees they have indicated an interest in.
 - Better marketing, messaging and publicity including a website that is easier to navigate were all suggested as ways of raising awareness of what CLA does. Also there needs to be more clarity on what the Sections do.
 - Too much overlap between CLA/CLC/CSL trainings. Many often don't know who the sponsoring organization is. Already belong to CLC as a library and can attend roundtables and trainings for no or little cost.
 - Annual conference content has been lacking in credentialed, professional content and it has been difficult to incite staff to go.

- Too many Fall workshops – maybe stagger offerings each year?

- **Professional Development Needs**
 - Human Resources trainings for small, rural and association libraries.
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Dealing with First Amendment Audits
 - Mental health issues
 - Workplace safety
 - Customer Service
 - Excel
 - Records retention
 - Best Practices Document

- **Advocacy & Legislative Agenda**
 - Misunderstanding that the lobbyists aren't actually doing the lobbying.
 - Need simplified talking points and CLA's official responses to big issues
 - Would like strategies for effectively interacting with Legislators
 - Important issues:
 - Macmillan - eBooks
 - Net Neutrality
 - Healthcare plans for association libraries
 - Need a Media Specialist in each school
 - Defining Hate Speech
 - CLC funding

Next Steps

Customized reports of this feedback will be shared with the relevant organizations and/or CLA Committees and Sections for follow-up. A high-level summary will be shared with the Connecticut Library Community.

State Librarian's Report to CLA December 5, 2019 – Ken Wiggin

November 21st Hosted Governor's Summer Reading Challenge winning schools for 2018 and 2019- Governor, Commissioner of Education and I - Looks like this will now be a fall event.

State Library Met on November 25th.

New Board Member Melissa Hickey representing the Commissioner of Education
Reading/Literacy
Director

Awarded State Public Library Construction Grants:

- \$131,214 to the Bethany Library Association-Clark Memorial Library. Accessibility, Remodel, Energy Conservation, Emergencies.
- \$1,000,000 to the City of Meriden for Meriden Public Library. Major Alteration
- \$49,400 to the Warren Public Library. Accessibility.
- \$250,000 to the Town of Waterford for the Waterford Public Library. Major Alteration.

Approved supplemental Fiber to the Library grants to:

\$14,959.00 to the East Hartford Public Library

\$24,361.00 to the Sprague Public Library

Board Passed a resolution for Walter Magnavice, Jr. recognizing his 32 years with CCAR/deliverIT

CLA Region 1 Report – Travis Feder

Beardsley Library (Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Winsted)

- I attended the Northwest Director's Roundtable on November 8th to provide updates about the regional town hall meeting and other CLA news.
- The Beardsley Library will host a holiday open house on Saturday, December 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. featuring music, crafts, refreshments, and a visit from Santa.

Bethlehem

- The Bethlehem Library is hiring a part time children's services assistant with a schedule of 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays plus 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on alternating Fridays and Saturdays. Interested applicants can call the library at (203) 266-7510, option 7.

Cornwall

- The Cornwall Library will hold its annual Boxing Day Reading event on December 26th at the North Cornwall Meeting House at 4:00 p.m. Actor and artist Tom Walker will read a ghost story by eminent medievalist M.R. James. The event is free, although donations to the library are appreciated.

David M. Hunt Library (Canaan, Falls Village)

- The David M. Hunt Library will present its ninth annual year-end art exhibition, titled *12X12*, on Saturday, December 7th with refreshments from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The event features over 100 original artworks by 75 artists, all in a 12" by 12" format, and all priced at \$100 each. A portion of proceeds benefits the library. Art not purchased on the 7th will remain on display through January 4th, 2020.

Goshen

- The Goshen Public Library will host a Trivia Night on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Teams of up to 6 participants will compete to win one of three games and its corresponding prize. Each team is expected to bring an appetizer to share with the group.

Harwinton

- The Harwinton Library will host its annual Holiday Open House and Craft Sale on Saturday, December 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. In addition to the craft sale, storyteller Roger Carillo will read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Kent

- The Kent Memorial Library is hosting An Evening of Poetry and Music on Saturday, December 7th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in reading his or her own poetry or a favorite poem is invited to join in or listen. Refreshments will be available.

Litchfield (Oliver Wolcott Library)

- The Oliver Wolcott Library will host Family Fun Day on Saturday, December 14th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will feature the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra's Creating Musical Readers at 11:00 a.m. Humphrey Rolleston will read *The Nutcracker* by Alison Jay and WSO violinist Cyrus Stevens will bring the story to life. Gingerbread cookie decorating and a special Nutcracker-themed craft will also be available. The event is open to all ages, and registration is required.

Morris

- The Morris Public Library will participate in the town's Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 7th with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus in their reading room.

Naugatuck (Howard Whittemore Memorial Library)

- The Howard Whittemore Memorial Library will host Ed Popielarczyk's Comedy Magic Show for all ages on Saturday, December 28th at 10:30 a.m.

Norfolk

- The Norfolk Library will host a Fireside Reading with illustrator Katie Atkinson on December 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Katie Atkinson is the illustrator of Joanna Kelly's *The Jolly Woodman*, the true story of Mark Carr, an enterprising New York state farmer who started the first Christmas tree market in America in 1851.

Prospect

- The Prospect Public Library will host a Christmas Concert and Reception on Sunday, December 8th at 1:30 p.m. The event will feature the Pierce Campbell Jazz Trio, with light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres to follow. Adults are invited to bring a favorite bottle of wine to sample and share. Registration is required.

Roxbury (Minor Memorial Library)

- The Hodge Library will host a Solstice Pop-Up Pub night on December 21st from 4:26 p.m. (sunset) to 8:00 p.m. Beer, wine, and other beverages will be available for sale with proceeds benefitting the library. The Next Chapter Bookstore will also be open during the event.

Salisbury (Scoville Memorial Library)

- The Scoville Memorial Library will host Dana Cowin, former editor of *Food & Wine* magazine on Saturday, December 7th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Cowin, who spent two decades as the Editor-in-Chief of *Food & Wine Magazine*, will discuss the evolution of food culture in America from the 90's to today.

Sherman

- The Sherman Library's annual holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a carving station, a silent auction, and live music. Tickets are available on the Sherman Library's website, shermanlibrary.org.

Southbury

- The Southbury Public Library will host a Holiday Concert by the Berkshire Jazz Orchestra on Saturday, December 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The concert will also feature special arrangements of contemporary and traditional holiday standards by vocalist Jan Maki.

Torrington

- The Mystic Aquarium's traveling touch tank will be at the Torrington Library on Monday, December 30 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Animals featured will include lobsters, horseshoe crabs, and other shellfish.

Warren

- The Warren Public Library will celebrate Holiday on the Hill on Saturday, December 7th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will include letter writing to Santa, kittens from the Wells Valley Cat Sanctuary, and adult beverages provided by the Warren Historical Society.

Washington (Gunn Memorial Library & Museum)

- The Gunn Memorial Library's Festival of Trees cocktail party will take place on Friday, December 6th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The event will feature creatively-decorated holiday trees, wreaths, and stockings available for purchase, along with wine and hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants. Attendees may purchase a Treasure Pouch from the library's tree, each of which containing a voucher for a mystery gift donated by a local business. Gifts include gift baskets, theater tickets, gift certificates, edibles, and more.

Waterbury (Silas Bronson)

- The Silas Bronson Library will host *Anne Frank: A Life To Remember* on Monday, December 23 at 5:00 p.m. Actress Sheryl Faye will present a performance offering a glimpse into the extraordinary life of Anne Frank, followed by a question and answer session. The event will be held in the Children's room and is sponsored by the CT Humanities Book Voyagers program.

Woodbury

- The Woodbury Public Library will host the Art Alliance of Woodbury's Inaugural Members Exhibition starting with a reception on Saturday, December 7th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 27 artists from the area will be showcased.

Region 5 Report: December 2019 – Robbie Marshall

- Blackstone Library in Branford is working with local artists, illustrator and Town Historian to create a beautiful one-of-a-kind map of Branford, highlighting Shoreline neighborhoods and points of interest, to commemorate the 375th anniversary of Branford's founding.
- Clinton Library [Henry Carter Hull] and Woodbridge offer a movie streaming service called Kanopy.
- East Haven's Haganan Library is having a Teen cooking competition on December 12th. Teams will have three rounds to craft a unique and interesting meal out of the provided ingredients – but they will have no idea what these ingredients will be. In mid-November the Library replaced all staff and public computers (37) with new computers and a 3 year computer lease.
- Hamden Library is kicking off and participating in the Town's Silver Bells holiday celebration on Dec. 7th. Events begin at 11am inside the Miller Library and Cultural Center. There will be free activities in the Children's Room from 11am – 1pm. Then, Jack Frost will bring in the holiday season with his performance "Chillin' for the Holidays" and then an indoor snowstorm in Thornton Wilder Hall at 1:00pm.
- Madison Library's construction continues with photos on their website of the new windows.
- Levi E. Coe in Middlefield has a scanner available for check out.
- Russell Library has hired two new staff members: Ayanna Wright, Teen Librarian (began November 4); Shannon Wild, Youth Librarian (beginning December 30). They are excited to welcome them to their team.