Candidates for the CLA Board

**Candidate for Vice President/President Elect**

**Kate Byroade**  
_Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester_

Despite my high school job as a page at the West Hartford Public Library and my college job in the college library’s cataloging department, I never thought to become a librarian until after I’d graduated. The lightbulb finally went on after I was fortunate to land a position in the children’s department at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury—a job I loved that excited me about what libraries meant to and did for their communities. Next I went to Portland Library as circulation manager where I loved the intimacy of serving a small town and assisting my “regulars.” Three years later, I left that position to go to Simmons College and earn my MSLIS. After grad school I was lucky to work as the teen services librarian at the Bethel Public Library. I moved on to Manchester Public Library where I worked for nine years, first as the head of circulation & technical services and then as the Whiton branch manager. I became director of the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester late in 2009, where I’ve worked with a great

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**Candidate for Recording Secretary**

**Catherine Potter**  
_Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill_

Although I have been working at the Cora J. Belden library in Rocky Hill for almost 20 years, I feel like I’m just starting to work in libraries. I am an unconventional student, and will be graduating with my MLIS from the University of Rhode Island this spring. During my graduate studies, I choose to follow the leadership track and am interested in pursuing leadership roles to continue to learn and develop competencies that will strengthen me both personally and professionally.

Children’s librarian by day and local government commission clerk by night, I have over 10 years of experience with the tasks of a recording secretary. Over the years, I have learned that by listening and developing minutes that become a permanent record of the meeting’s events, I have increased my own knowledge of each organization exponentially. While performing the tasks of a recording secretary, I will strive to ensure that the voices of the members are accurately documented while bridging the gap for readers not in attendance.
Groton Public Library celebrated the grand opening of the "Looking Forward, Giving Back Renovation Project" with a ribbon cutting of the new local history room and tech lab on March 22.

Town Historian James L. Streeter’s donation of local history materials spurred the drive to re-design the library’s interior to make room for his extensive Groton collection. The new local history room includes a separate space for the James L. Streeter Collection. Several interesting items from the collection, including the newly acquired 1705 document creating Groton as a town separate from New London, are on display in the new cases.

The new space has been planned with proper temperature, humidity and light controls to preserve the materials. The room triples the size of the former local history room to 675 square feet.

An updated public computer area and state-of-the-art tech lab were also part of the project. Other less visible maintenance projects included replacement of 2 heat pump units, repaving the parking lot, repairing cracks in the concrete floor of the GMTV studio, replacement of ceiling tiles, and the addition of an exterior book drop.

The renovations were made possible by a public library construction grant approved by the Connecticut State Library Board and matching funds provided by the Town of Groton, along with donations from many local individuals, businesses and foundations.

Stop by to see the new space when you are in the area. If you’re planning to be at annual conference, on May 4-5, GPL is less than a mile and a half from the Mystic Marriott.
Message from the President

The 126th annual Connecticut Library Association conference will take place on May 4 & 5 at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. These two days full of professional development opportunities marks the culmination of a year of intense planning, and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. If you are attending on Thursday, be sure to stay for a special reception and try your hand at “Escape from the Haunted Library” a puzzling mystery created especially for us by Eric Berlin, author of the Puzzling World of Winston Breen. The reception is your chance to catch up and network with your colleagues, and also CLA’s thank you for all who have supported the conference.

We are in the final stretch of conference planning and I can’t thank our conference co-chairs enough—Kristina Edwards and Sara Martone have been tremendous throughout the year coordinating all of the myriad details to ensure that the conference is an excellent experience for all. The conference chairs for 2018, Tina Panik and Kirk Morrison, along with President-Elect Glenn Grube, have provided much needed support this year, and they are hard at work to get a head start on next year’s conference. Our exhibits co-chairs, Brandie Doyle and Katy Dillman, have been instrumental in getting vendor support for the conference. As always, Jennifer Keohane and the CLC staff deserve our thanks for all of their support, and Jen Datum for all she does to ensure that CLA communicates with our 700+ members.

The theme of our conference this year, Uncharted Waters: Navigating the Changing Tides in Librarianship, reminds us to enjoy the beautiful location in Mystic and also that we must continue to evolve and adapt to the needs of our profession and communities. This is our ongoing challenge which comes with well-earned rewards when we succeed.

In that vein, CLA is proposing some changes to our bylaws in order to make our organization stronger and open to participation by as many members as possible. These changes will be proposed for a vote at the annual meeting scheduled for Friday, May 5th at 9am. Friday is also the day for the annual awards ceremony and I encourage you to attend to congratulate our colleagues on their special accomplishments.

As you plan for the conference this year, please make a note to visit our vendors and thank them for their support, which is a large part of what funds the conference we enjoy every year. There will also be a membership table, and we are always recruiting for committee member and volunteers, so please take a moment to stop by to find out how you can get involved.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Mystic!

Karen Jensen is the director of the James Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford
Advocacy Thank You!

Most people who work in and support CT libraries already know that the governor’s proposed FY18-19 budget would eliminate all funding for the popular borrowIT CT program, which allows patrons to borrow materials from any of the 192 participating libraries.

Many people testified in person in Hartford in support of restoring the funding, and many more submitted written testimony.

CLA coordinated a letter writing campaign that many libraries around the state participated in.

Lastly, CLA also sent a message to thousands of Connecticut library advocates asking them to submit an email letter to their local state reps and senators, and Governor Malloy.

As of the publishing of this newsletter, we are not certain if the funding will be restored, but we sincerely say thank you to everyone who showed their support for this critical program, and for all Connecticut libraries!

“There is no question that constituents living in the variety of communities in our state do not enjoy the same level of public services, whether they be for education, recreation, or quality of life. Cutting this small amount from the State Library budget will eliminate a program that has been in place since 1976, creating more equal access to information for all citizens”

Karen Jensen

CLA President Karen Jensen gives testimony in support of the borrowIT CT program at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Sample of the postcards sent in support of library funding by patrons of Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton.

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

www.ctlibraryassociation.org

CLA Today is the newsletter of the Connecticut Library Association. Published every other month, it is posted to the CLA website. Please send submissions for future issues to editor Jennifer Datum at editor@ctlibrarians.org.
Candidate for Region 1 Rep

Britta Santamauro

McTernan Centennial Library, Naugatuck

It has been a pleasure to serve as interim Region 1 representative on the CLA board this past year and I am looking forward to continuing in this role. I am currently the director of library services at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury. I found that no matter what type of library - academic, school or public - we share the same values, tackle similar problems and we can learn so much from each other. I found it incredibly energizing and inspiring to attend the board meetings. It feels good to stay informed and be aware that we are all part of a bigger picture and play a role in moving libraries forward into the 21st century. The creativity, generosity and camaraderie among librarians does not cease to amaze me and I am honored to do my best to give back to the profession by serving as the representative for Region 1.

Candidate for Region 4 Rep

Geri Diorio

Stratford Library Association

The best thing about librarianship is that it is an incredibly giving profession. There are no trade secrets, people are willing to share ideas, skills, and materials to help each other and to help patrons. I would be honored to serve on the CLA Board because, like so many librarians, I enjoy giving – of my time and energy and abilities. I would stay in contact with libraries from all over Region 4 and bring their concerns and ideas to the CLA Board. Working together librarians can accomplish amazing things. I’d be delighted to help Region 4 libraries achieve great things for their patrons.

If elected, I would bring enthusiasm, good cheer, and my knowledge from working as a public librarian for children, teens, and adults at four different Region 4 libraries. I have served CLA as YA Section co-chair, was an ALA Emerging Leader, have done more than a decade of Nutmeg Book Award committee work, and I write for blogs and review journals. I know how to communicate, hit deadlines, and play nicely with others. I would be honored to serve as the Region 4 CLA representative.

Candidate for Region 4 Rep

Alessandra Petrino

Weston Public Library

My name is Alessandra Petrino and I am currently the children and young adult librarian at the Weston Public Library. I would be honored to be your Region 4 representative for CLA. Always having been an avid reader, I came into this profession looking to be a part of something where I would be helping others while still growing my own knowledge base. Librarianship is a very interesting and lucky profession to be a part because it is ever-changing, and allows professionals to constantly grow in the field itself. It is a profession I love.

Libraries are community learning centers where we strive to meet everyone’s personal and professional needs. Librarians and library staff are the voices of their patrons, advocating for their needs and pursuing their requests each and every day in varying capacities. Those library staff members need a voice too, and unfortunately, as much as we would all like to be capable of doing everything, sometimes we need help, and working together is the solution. I have been lucky to have worked and felt a sense of accomplishment in various libraries and capacities, from the very small, suburban setting to the large, urban one, in circulation, reference, librarianship, management, and finally, administration. Serving in these different roles, I’ve been able to learn the importance of communication and not just between libraries and their patrons, but among libraries, librarians, and their staff. Being your regional representative means I would be able to help you and your library have a voice while at the same time learning more myself.

Thank you for this opportunity.

As a distant relative of Ernest Hemingway, I have always had a passion for writing and in my spare time am working on publishing a book of poetry. Two of my heroes in life are my parents. My mother, who passed away from cancer, taught me everything about life. My father, a retired Vietnam veteran and author, gave me my love of books. In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my wife, Sabrina, and growing vegetables and plants in our greenhouse with our cat, Huckleberry.

Libraries need the full support of all the people in the community. I think we need to continue to be a strong voice in the world and to stand up for what is right. With library budget cuts becoming the norm every year, we need to fight out for the library and bring new ideas to the table.

If elected, it would be an honor to represent the libraries of Region 5.

Candidate for NELA Rep
Christy Billings
Russell Library, Middletown

My name is Christy Billings and I am an LTA at the Russell Library in Middletown. I am running for the New England Library Association Representative for CLA.

I am interested in serving on the CLA Board in order to have a role in helping our libraries remain relevant and vital in these changing times.

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I went to Three Rivers for my Library Technology Assistant Certification, graduating with honors and the Alumni Outstanding Graduating Student Award in 2006.

I have worked in the library field since 1996, and have been at the Russell Library for almost 15 years. I am a co-organizer for a weekly veteran’s writing group which has been meeting since 2013. I have been involved with the One Town reads program, called One Book on the Riverbend, since 2010, and am now a co-chair. I have had the pleasure of partnering with community members and organizations such as the YMCA, our local VFW, and hosting other unique events like “Yoga in the Courtyard.”

It has been a pleasure to have been the Connecticut Library Association Region 5 Representative since 2013, keeping Region 5 Libraries up to date with the happenings in libraries in Connecticut. During that time, I have been a part of the legislative committee, and have been an advocate for public libraries, including testifying at the State Capitol on behalf of funding for libraries.

I am interested in continuing to serve on the CLA Board as the New England Library Representative because I care passionately about being able to bring information about all the great things that we do in Connecticut to libraries throughout New England, and to connect Connecticut library staff with great ideas and innovations from other places. As a member of NELA and as the New England Library Association Rep, I would also continue to serve on the legislative committee at CLA, and be able to continue the advocacy work on behalf of Connecticut libraries. As the NELA Rep, because of my previous experience in CLA, I have the flexibility to be able to shift gears as needed, according to the issues at hand. As hard as it is to see into the future, I believe I am best equipped to handle new changes, and challenges. CLA members depend on their representatives for advocacy, and accurate information so they can be the very best asset to their communities. Please vote for me as the NELA rep for CLA.

Candidate for NELA Rep
Sarah McCusker
Canton Public Library

Like many of my colleagues, I was a “library kid,” with my first job as a library page as a teenager. With the exception of a brief post-college detour into the world of DC-area government subcontractors, I have now worked in libraries for twenty-five years (which seems impossible!). I have a BA in English from the University of Rochester and an MLS from SCSU. Since earning my MLS in 2005, I have worked as a technical services and reference librarian at the Burlington, Canton, and Windsor public libraries. In 2015 I came back to Canton as the director.

CLA and NELA have both been such a resource to me as I’ve worked my way through my career and I have had the privilege of having a number of mentors from both organizations guiding me. It’s time for me to start giving back. I became involved with NELA when I was selected as part of the 2013 NELLS (New England Library Leadership Symposium) cohort. NELLS was an incredibly rewarding experience and since then, the connections I’ve made throughout New England have been invaluable. Our six states have a tremendous legacy of library service and while the ways our libraries are run and governed differ greatly, we all have the same challenges – from budgets to the ever-present challenge of proving our relevance in a changing society – and we have so much to learn from and share with each other. Having a network of colleagues from across our region gives me a much broader base of knowledge and experience to draw from when making decisions for my own library. As the CLA representative to NELA, I will work to enhance cooperation and communication between our states to help make all of our libraries stronger.

Individual members of CLA are eligible to vote. You will receive an email in early May with instructions.
People in the News

Pequot Library is pleased to welcome Tracy Ann Steneken as our new public programs manager. She received her MA in Museum Studies and Non-profit Management from John Hopkins University. Tracy will be responsible for managing Pequot Library’s robust line-up of educational offerings for all ages.

Ellen Paul, formerly the CLC member relations manager, is the new director of the East Hampton Public Library.

Yvonne Cech is the new director of the Brookfield Library. The Danbury native previously served as the director of the Croton Free Library in Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

Ferguson Library President Alice Knapp has been awarded the Fairfield County Bar Association’s Liberty Bell Award, which acknowledges outstanding community service by a layperson as well as the promotion of civic responsibility and contribution to good government.

Ferguson Library’s world languages and literacy librarian Yelena Klompus has been honored with Building One Community’s Land of Opportunity Award, which recognizes a local resident who immigrated to the Greater Stamford area and whose accomplishments embody the realization of the American Dream, through their own personal success as well as their contributions to the community as a whole.

CLC welcomes Trish Palmer as their new office manager.

Leticia Cotto has been named Hartford Public Library’s first Customer Experience Office. Letty has been the Park Branch Manager in Hartford’s Frog Hollow neighbor-


April Beckman is the new children’s librarian at Babcock Library in Ashford.

Ellen G. Janpol is the new business librarian at the Westport Public Library.

Avon Free Public Library’s children’s department is pleased to welcome new children’s library specialist, Hilary Kennard.

Sandy Ruoff, director of the Guilford Free Library, has been named to the State Library Board.

Lucretia Duwel, teen services head for the Stratford Library, will be retiring in June. Duwel has worked at the Library since 1997 starting as youth services librarian and becoming head of the teen department in 2001.

The Ridgefield Library is pleased to announce the addition to its staff of Shay Glass as children’s librarian and Kristina Lareau as head of children’s services. Shay has experience in libraries in Oregon, North Carolina and Massachusetts. Kristina was most recently a children’s librarian at Fairfield Public Library.

Tamara Sines Lyhne recently started working as a reference librarian at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library. She was formerly head of youth services in Volusia County, Florida. She will be helping out in all aspects of adult and teen services in Monroe.
More People News

**Kashif Chaudhary** is the director of information technology for the Hartford Public Library. Kashif is responsible for oversight and management of all IT services. He will also ensure the alignment of services with our strategic initiatives.

**Terry Palacios-Baughman**, the borrowing coordinator for document delivery & interlibrary loan in the Homer Babbidge Library at the University of Connecticut, recently received the Student Employee Supervisor Award.

Obituaries

**Susan Ei**, children’s librarian, Pequot Library, has passed away. Susan was a kind, caring, creative and dedicated librarian who gave her all to the profession and community that she served.

**Richard H. Schimmelpfeng** passed away March 16. In 1966 he joined the staff of the University of Connecticut Libraries to protect and preserve the library’s rare and unusual books and manuscript collections. The day after his retirement in 1992 he began working as a volunteer in what had become the Archives and Special Collections Department, where he served as its principal cataloger until early 2017. His fifty years of service to the University of Connecticut is perhaps unsurpassed.

**Stuart Porter**, director of Russell Library in Middletown from 1978 to 1997 has passed away. He also served as treasurer and chair of the editorial committee for CLA.

News from NELA

**New Attendee Scholarship**

**Conference Scholarships**

To encourage first-time attendance at the NELA annual conference and membership in NELA, NELA is offering its members, and non-members, the opportunity to make first-time conference attendance possible with annual scholarships which are awarded annually to up to six NELA members representing each New England state.

Each recipient will receive a full conference registration (does not include travel reimbursements) AND one year membership to NELA.

Any New England library employee or full-time library school student who have not previously attended the annual conference are eligible, with funding from the Educational Assistance Fund. Applicants cannot have been the recipient of any other NELA scholarship, bequest, or grant in the past 12 months. Applicants do not have to be current members of NELA.

The **deadline for scholarship applications is June 30th**. Applicants will be reviewed in July and recipients will be selected. Recipients will be notified and an announcement will be sent out via email, website and social media by the end of July.

The conference is a joint conference with the Vermont Library Association, and will be held October 22-24 in Burlington, Vermont.

May 4-5, 2017
Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa, Groton
Registration is Open!

Featured Keynotes:

**Annabel Beerel**, Annabel Beerel Consulting
Dr. Annabel Beerel is an organizational consultant with expertise in Leadership and Change Management, executive and organizational effectiveness and analyzing Ethical issues across a wide range of professions. She is the founder and President & CEO of the New England Women’s Leadership Institute, an organization that helps women advance in their careers and advises on organizational leadership capacity building. The flagship event of the Institute is the New England Women’s Leadership Summit, a major leadership and professional skills development event for professional women across New England.

**Lauren Comito & Christian Zabriskie**
**Urban Libraries Unite and authors of Grassroots Library Advocacy**
Christian Zabriskie is the Founder and Executive Director of Urban Librarians Unite and was named a “Change Maker” as a Library Journal Mover & Shaker in 2012. The co-author of Grassroots Library Advocacy: A Special Report available from ALA Editions, he writes and speaks about library advocacy, graphic novels, and public librarianship in large urban centers. Christian spends his days happily running the Will Library Branch of the Yonkers Public Library system.

Lauren Comito is a cape wearing, ukulele playing, tech training, activist librarian in NYC. From her day job as Assistant Community Library Manager for the Rochdale Village branch of Queens Library, to her position as the Board Chair of Urban Librarians Unite she has a real problem turning down work. Lauren is a key figure in modern urban library activism and has been instrumental in developing an organization which has received international attention while scoring political victories at home. She is creative, passionate about connecting library patrons to services, and a true believer in the ability of the library to change people’s lives and communities for the better. If you aren’t a believer, get the hell out of her way.

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

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

126th Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference
BYROADE CONTINUED FROM P. 6

staff of creative and customer-oriented people.

I was fortunate to receive a lot of mentoring along my path, both on the job and through CLA. I was involved with an early version of CLASS, and with the customer service and mentoring committees. More recently, I have been chair of the membership committee and I served as the Region 6 representative for four years. I have a passion for encouraging library staff to grow in their jobs, to pursue further education when they can, and to be as creative as possible. I’ve been involved with the annual awards committee and love honoring the excellence all around us here in Connecticut. I am committed to CLA continuing to provide avenues for professional development and leadership opportunities for all kinds of library employees. My own career would not have been possible without such opportunities.

I live in my hometown of West Hartford with my husband, two daughters, and a dog. Not surprisingly, I love to read (a lot of historical fiction and non-fiction), walk the dog, swim, and I’m a Girl Scout leader for 7th and 8th graders.

My career path has showed me many ways of approaching the common tasks we all do and the many innovative ways libraries serve their communities, large, small, academic, special, or public. Throughout my career I’ve seen how CLC and programs like BorrowIT, DeliverIT, and ResearchIT have knit our work together to serve our users. These simple, cost-effective programs have succeeded for decades, but now they are regularly targeted for de-funding. I’m worried about sustaining these key programs while the state works through its toughest budget ever. It’s our job to help our legislators understand how the moving parts work together to promote equity and collaboration. I will continue to advocate for our libraries, communities, and users. I would be very honored to serve CLA as Vice-President/President Elect to work for sustained funding, advocacy, and to promote learning and innovation in library services.♦

POTTER CONTINUED FROM P. 6

Serving as a member of the CLA Board, I look forward to learning more about Connecticut libraries and librarians. I look forward to having the opportunity to give back to the library community. I look forward to being a part of the future of libraries by helping to shape the future those here in Connecticut. It would be a privilege to serve as the recording secretary for the 2017-2019 term.♦