

**Welcoming Innovation with CLASS:
2017 CLA Support Staff Professional Development
Annual Conference
Friday October 27, 2017**

***** OUR PRESENTERS *****

As a public library director in Connecticut, **Maxine Bleiweis** saw the role of ALL staff as paramount to the success of the library in the community. From Suffield to Newington to Westport, she insisted on the inclusion of everyone in planning and implementation. She received the Connecticut Librarian of the Year award in 2011 and the Charlie Robinson Award for Innovative Leadership from the Public Library Association in 2015. Maxine is now working with libraries across the country to help them achieve their goals. www.maxinebleiweis.com



Jean Baur and her therapy dog Bella live in Stonington and volunteer in both Connecticut and Rhode Island. They visit special needs children in the schools and go to rehab facilities, hospitals, and a local cancer center. As Jean writes in her book, *Joy Unleashed: The Story of Bella, the Unlikely Therapy Dog*, these dogs are "ambassadors of exuberance." Jean is also the author of two career books and works as a speaker to inspire audiences to maximize their potential. Bella has worked for almost six years as a certified therapy dog, and she and Jean are honored to be part of so many other's lives. For their upcoming events, please check the book's website, www.joyunleashed.org.

Diane Brown, MLIS, is a native of New Haven. She is a recipient of the Bill and Melinda Gates Fellowship Award in 2013 which set her on the course to becoming a librarian. In 2005, she was hired as an Adjunct Professor at SCSU in the Department of Information Technology and Library Sciences where she taught a mix of undergraduate and graduate courses online as well as on campus. She received the prestigious and national "I Love My Librarian" award from the American Librarian Association and Carnegie Corporation in December 2015 for her outstanding work in building lasting partnerships to provide services and programming to library patrons. She is currently employed by the New Haven Free Public Library where she has served as Branch Manager for the Stetson Branch for the past 11 years.

Karen Carey is a Library Associate at the Russell Library and oversees the Borrowing Department. She has been an employee there for 20+ years and enjoys the daily interaction with the public. Her interests include travel, baking and attending concerts!

Beth Crowley, MLS, began her career in libraries in 1998 as a library aide at the Groton Public Library. After completing her MLS in 2000, she held several positions at the Groton Public Library including Children's Librarian, Head of Youth Services and Manager of Public Services. In January of 2012, she became the Director of the Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, CT. Beth also served for nine years on the CLA board including a term as President from 2015-2016. She currently serves as a member of the Career Development and Membership Committees.

Andrew J. Fal, MLIS, is the Head of Reference and Adult Programming at Howard Whittemore Memorial Library. He also works Reference at the Elihu Burritt Library at Central Connecticut State University in the evening. His first full-time library job was at the Mortensen Library at the University of Hartford. After working at the University of Hartford, he joined the Air Force and spent time in Germany. He has also done a 10-kilometer hike in every US state capitol.

Dana Hanford, MLIS, is Head of Information, Systems, and Resources at the Elihu Burritt Library at Central Connecticut State University. She has worked in technical services, primarily in cataloging, since completing her MLIS in 1990. She is an active member of the Connecticut Library Association's Technical Services Section, the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, and the Online Audiovisual Catalogers.

Tara Hurt, MLIS, is the University Archivist/Head of Archives & Special Collections at Eastern Connecticut State University. She has worked at Eastern for 16 years and worked at the University of Connecticut Dodd Research Center prior to working at Eastern. Tara is a faculty member at Eastern who serves on many campus committees and is an active member of the New England Archivists (NEA) and Society of American Archivists (SAA).

Jennifer Keohane, MLS, is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), a non-profit cooperative serving over 800 Connecticut libraries of all types and sizes. Prior to joining CLC in 2012, Jennifer was the Business Outreach Librarian at the Simsbury Public Library where she launched and managed an award-winning Business Resource Center. Jennifer is a recipient of the 2011 "I Love My Librarian Award" from the New York Times/Carnegie Corporation of New York. In addition to a Master of Library Science and School Library Media certification from Southern Connecticut State University, she holds a Bachelor's of Commerce in Marketing/International Business from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Jennifer has over 12 years of non-library business experience including retail management, product development, marketing, brand management, market research and product licensing.

Deb Simpson, MLIS, is the Archives Assistant at Eastern Connecticut State University. She has worked at Eastern for 17 years and worked in public libraries prior to working at Eastern. Deb is a library technician who oversees student workers, collection preparation and processing. She is a member of NEA (New England Archivists), CLA and NELA.

Janet Valencis, BS, is the Office Operations Specialist at the West Hartford Public Library and Secretary of the CLASS Steering Committee. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and is a Certified Master Gardener and Zentangle Teacher. She has worked in a nuclear power plant, owned a gardening business and now does administrative work. But her real passion is art. She teaches art programs at the West Hartford Library and several other libraries in the area. She is currently teaching the Zentangle Art Method, Origami, Quilling and Artistic Lettering.

Heidi Viener, BS, is a certified Laughter Yoga Instructor, a member of her community's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteer organization, First Aid and CPR Red Cross Certified, Neighbor's Helping Neighbor's Volunteer, and a volunteer for her town's Senior Center. She has reshaped her life by incorporating holistic healing practices since first walking through the doors into Toivo in August of 2015. Heidi loves to share her love of teaching with all, loves animals, nature and caring for the environment, nurturing others along their own healing journeys, and enjoys being a mother to her son.

David Vrooman, MLIS, is the Information Literacy Librarian at Eastern Connecticut State University. Predatory Journals and "Fake News" are topics that fascinate him. He is interested in how people interpret what they find on the internet.

Meredith Yuhas, PhD, LPC, NCC, ACS, is the current Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center at the University of St. Joseph. Dr. Yuhas is a licensed professional counselor and an approved clinical supervisor. She has a PhD from University of Connecticut in Counseling Psychology. Dr. Yuhas has 20 years of college counseling experience at several universities in Connecticut including previous positions of Counselor and Director of Training at the University of Hartford and Counselor at University of Connecticut. She is on the faculty of the Copper Beech Mindfulness Institute and is also a Certified Zentangle Teacher regularly teaching meditative art across the country.