The Connecticut Library Association is excited to launch the new “extended membership” with the New England Library Association (NELA). CLA members can take advantage of this opportunity by paying a discounted fee of only $20 per year ($15 for students and retirees) when joining or renewing your CLA membership.

By joining both CLA and NELA, you will receive the full benefits that each of the organizations have to offer.

Your NELA membership includes:

- NELA news and email announcements
- Discounts on NELA events and conferences
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Access to mentors from around New England
- New perspectives and ideas from the other New England states
- Connection with library professionals across New England

Your CLA membership includes:

- Support for legislative advocacy
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Discounts on CLA professional development workshops and conferences
- Eligibility for PEG (Proficiency Enhancement Grants) money for professional development
- Opportunities for scholarships for LTA and MLS students
- Networking and mentoring opportunities
- Support for recognition awards for colleagues and programs
- Discounts on long-term care and pet insurance

When you sign in to join or renew your CLA membership, there will be a membership category that includes both organizations. Your CLA and NELA membership will have the same 1-year renewal date.

Please note that there is no extended institutional membership; this discount is for individual members only.

Please contact Tom Piezzo, CLA Membership Chair (tpiezzo@brainerdlibrary.org or 860-345-2204) or Gail Hurley, CLA NELA Representative (Gail.Hurley@ct.gov or 860-704-2222) with any questions.
Tell us about your path to librarianship.

I’m one of those people who felt called to the profession from a young age. From attending story times as a child, to volunteering with the summer reading program, to working at my local public library throughout high school, I developed an appreciation for libraries as a patron and a passion for library work that led me to pursuing an MLS at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I also interned with my high school’s librarian, and in college I worked within nearly every department in the library, from reference and outreach to special collections. I loved working in all of these settings and was encouraged by many colleagues and mentors who inspired me and affirmed my respect and admiration for the library profession.

Q. You grew up in New Jersey and went to school in North Carolina. What led you to CT?

This job! CLC is a fantastic organization, and as member relations manager I am excited about the opportunity to work closely with Connecticut’s library community and have an impact on library services statewide. When it came to making the decision to live here, a couple of friends from Connecticut reassured me that I would find a lot to love.

Q. What do you like about Connecticut? Maybe not so much, or you didn’t expect?

There’s a lot that I have yet to explore, but so far my impression is that Connecticut is a little state with a little bit of everything—from quaint, tiny towns that are quintessential “New England,” to a scenic coastline and vibrant cities.

Q. Tell us a little about your job working at CLC as member relations manager...

I love my job. Every day I get to connect with librarians across the state, communicate the value of CLC and the services it provides, and work with my colleagues on initiatives that help libraries serve their communities. My weekly schedule is a balance of behind-the-scenes work (talking to vendors, helping libraries access discounted products and services, coordinating professional development events) and travelling outside of the office (visiting members, attending roundtables and conferences). Being able to interact with librarians from all across the state and from all types of settings is a privilege and a pleasure. I love seeing first hand the difference my librarian colleagues are making in their communities, and knowing that CLC helps extend their capacity to do so.

Q. What do you like to do when you’re not working?

Cooking is a creative outlet for me. I love checking out cookbooks from the library and trying...
Message from the President

It was quite an honor to become president of the Connecticut Library Association in June. It caused me reflect on the trust and respect that hundreds of my colleagues around the state have placed in me and gave me a wider perspective in my view of libraries, librarians and library workers. Plus I got a really neat gavel!

However, the honeymoon was short. Within the first two weeks of my term, in the absence of a budget from the legislature, Gov. Malloy’s Resource Allocation Plan executive order slashed the Connecticut State Library’s budget by 18%, on top of a decade of cuts that already left many key programs underfunded. It was a Pyrrhic victory at best to see the borrowIT money restored by the governor, only to lose all funding for CLC and have the researchIT budget cut in half. Should these cuts stand, the State Library expects to lose an additional almost $600,000 in federal LSTA funds for dropping below the maintenance of effort level on state funding.

The following week, deliverIT shut down operations to retool and retrain in preparation for a new service model that imposed volume caps on pickup and delivery of materials. Seeing such a long-standing and successful example of statewide resource-sharing retreat in the face of fiscal realities was discouraging to say the least.

At the time I am writing this, there is still no budget for the State of Connecticut. In a time of economic uncertainty for municipalities and academic institutions throughout the state, regionalized resource sharing and cooperation among libraries through programs such as CLC, researchIT and deliverIT are all the more valuable. CLA and our members, individual and institutional, need to stand up and stand together to fight for the funding we need to provide the library services our patrons and students need and have come to expect from Connecticut libraries.

If you haven’t already, I encourage you to reach out to your local legislators and express one simple message: libraries provide important services to the residents of our state and need to be funded at the same level as the previous fiscal year. No more cuts can be absorbed without serious impacts to service. CLA’s Advocacy webpage (http://ctlibraryassociation.org/Advocacy) has talking points for these phone calls, emails and letters as well as other information to help you be a better library advocate.

Together, we can make a difference for libraries. Please don’t delay in speaking out and feel free to contact me directly if you are looking for more ways to help CLA and all of Connecticut’s libraries.

Glenn Grube is the director of the Avon Free Public Library.
Tell us a little about FIRST Robotics... how long has it been around? How many kids are involved?

(From the FIRST Website) Inspiring young people since 1992, FIRST® began with 28 teams in a New Hampshire high-school gym. Today, the four FIRST programs reach over 400,000 young people annually. The fun they have, the knowledge they gain, and the friendships they make along the way help build self-confidence, nurture creativity, and inspire them to solve the world’s greatest challenges, become strong citizens, and build a brighter future.

How do kids typically become involved with FIRST Robotics?

Students become involved with FIRST a variety of ways. FIRST offers programs for K-12, starting with FIRST Lego League Jr, where kids build Lego models with a moving piece and culminating in FIRST Robotics Competition which is for high school students who build aluminum robots that weigh up to 120 pounds and compete on a playing field almost the size of a basketball field. Students are recruited through outreach efforts by teams locally as well as promotion of the program to school administrators and an effort on all parts to spread the message of FIRST, recruit mentors and students and draw more positive attention to the program in an effort to get as much buzz and recognition as other activities and sports. The incredible amount of scholarships available to FIRST students is a big incentive for students to become involved and can be a helpful way to attract new members.

Some public libraries in CT are already involved with your organization. Can you give us some examples?

Currently Wolcott Public Library is collaborating with the town’s high school robotics team to run STEM programs (game night, a fun night of building, etc.) at the library, and is in works to start a FIRST Lego League team for elementary school students which will be mentored by the team’s high school students. Plainville Public Library featured New England FIRST as their nonprofit of the month in May, having a table and display of information, pamphlets and a sample model. We are working to encourage teams and libraries to create partnerships which help both parties gain the attention of the community.

What are the benefits for libraries to collaborate with FIRST Robotics?

A library can benefit from participating in FIRST programs or collaborating with FIRST teams in many ways. As libraries work to engage their communities and keep people coming in, offering STEM programs is a way to attract families and young people who otherwise may not visit a local library. FIRST programs can help to keep a local library at the top of people’s minds and remind them of all that a library has to offer.

If a library is interested, how do they start the process?

If a library is interested in FIRST they can contact FIRST Senior Mentor for CT, Stacey Gray at sgray@firstinspires.org or visit www.nefirst.org

Anything else you want librarians in CT to know?

FIRST as a whole as well as individual teams are sponsored by many large businesses such as UTC, Lockheed Martin, Stanley Black & Decker and Google, just to name a few. These companies see the value in investing in our youth and encouraging students to learn the skills needed to solve problems now and in the future.
CLA Upcoming Fall 2017 Programs

Tuesday, 10/3/2017
Disability Rights and Access for All
Sponsored by the ADA Committee
9:30-12:30
Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury

Wednesday, 10/11/2017
Customer Service in the Trenches
Customer Service Fall Workshop
Wallingford Public Library
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
See full description on p. 3

Friday, 10/13/2017
Children’s Services Annual Meeting
Time TBD
Wallingford Public Library

Wednesday, 10/18/2017
Technical Services Section fall program
Farmington Library
9:30-12:00
Title TBD. Topic: weeding.

Friday, 10/27/2017
CLA Support Staff (CLASS)
Professional Development Conference
Welcoming Innovation with CLASS
University of Hartford, Harry Jack Gray Center
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/15/2017
YA Meetup
Wallingford Public Library
10-3 pm (9:30 coffee and networking)

New England Library Association
Annual Conference
Recharge 2017
October 22-24
South Burlington, VT

Early bird registration is now open!
Be sure to register by 9/1 to receive early bird pricing. Please click HERE to register.

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new recipes—lately I’m into Asian and Indian dishes—and I also enjoy the challenge of making food from scratch. A pasta maker and tortilla press are at the top of my kitchen equipment wish list!

Q. What is on your nightstand now that you are currently reading, or in your "to read" pile?
Presence by Amy Cuddy. She researches body language and how holding yourself with confidence—what she calls “power posing”—actually affects how you behave and how others perceive you. Librarians are often stereotyped as being introverted and demure, preferring to stay out of the spotlight. Whether you are a librarian who identifies with or shatters this stereotype, Cuddy’s book has some great tips for facing challenging situations by presenting yourself to the world with confidence.

CL A Today August/September 2017
Maintaining Focus @ the Connecticut Information Literacy Conference

On June 16th, the College and University Libraries Section (CULS) sponsored the 6th Annual Connecticut Information Literacy conference at Manchester Community College. Librarians attended from all over Connecticut and New England. This year’s theme, “The IL Connection: From How We Learn to Now We Learn” allowed participants to come together and learn about the inner workings of the brain, the process of learning, and how librarians can support learning.

The keynote was Dr. G. Christian Jernstedt, professor emeritus of psychological brain functions at Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth, Dr. Jernstedt taught introductory psychology and undergraduate courses in learning, evaluation research, the brain and technology, and experimental methods. In the graduate program at Dartmouth, he taught courses in learning theory, teaching methods, philosophy of science, and experimental methodology and supervised Ph.D. students. He received national recognition for his teaching and received both of Dartmouth’s awards for distinguished teaching. He received Dartmouth’s Robert Fish Memorial Prize, which honors career achievement in teaching and scholarship. Dr. Jernstedt’s research is in the area of learning as it occurs both in formal classroom settings and in natural environments. This research is directed towards understanding the breadth of learning, including its cognitive, behavioral, and affective aspects. He examines what leads to learning, what happens during learning, and what outcomes emerge from the learning experiences. He has examined intentional learning, technologically enhanced learning, service learning, and experiential learning programs.

Dr. Jernstedt is actively involved in LALI (Librarians Active Learning Institute) at Dartmouth. LALI workshops are designed to develop librarians and archivists as teachers by introducing them to the concept of active learning pedagogy.

Through the generosity of Connecticut Council of Academic Library Directors (CCALD), Dr. Jernstedt led a half-day workshop the day before the conference.

Thursday’s workshop examined cognition from a student’s point of view. What takes place in their brains during teaching, and what information is retained once the lesson is over? Dr. Jernstedt touched upon topics surrounding student assessment, including what makes it important, and best practices to ensure that it is meaningful. Participants learned that there is no “gold standard” of teaching. Students learn best from evidence-based practice, as demonstrated by the Frameworks of Information Literacy. Since the brain doesn’t deal with negative emotions well, librarians should move towards positive feedback, highlighting what the student did that worked, and guide them toward fixing what didn’t work. Instead of caring what students are doing wrong, librarians should focus on helping the student getting it right. Finding engaging stories and/or examples that students can relate to guides students toward the right answer.

On Friday, Dr. Jernstedt gave the keynote address in the form of a workshop, using the entire morning. Since the learning process is different for each individual, how does one create meaningful instruction to address all of these different learning styles? Dr. Jernstedt focused on the inner workings of the brain, the process of learning, and how librarians can support learning. Participants learned that emotional aspects speed up learning. Students need to be engaged emotionally to be successful. Librarians need to connect with students socially as well as cognitively. Instructors need to do less talking so the students can do more. The person who is doing is the person who is learning. Dr. Jernstedt stressed the importance of taking a break and teaching in small meaningful chunks. It’s important to get closure on a lesson rather than moving on and leaving the lesson unfinished.

After a delicious lunch, participants attended breakout sessions, which complimented the morning’s key-

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The CLA Career Development Committee sponsored its seventh Library Leadership Development Skills Institute at the University of Hartford on Friday, Aug. 11. This full day professional development opportunity, which was attended by over 75 people, began with welcoming remarks by CLA President Glenn Grube and University of Hartford Interim Provost Dr. Frederick Schweitzer.

A keynote address was then given by Dr. Maureen Sullivan, past president of both ALA and ACRL. Maureen currently works as an organization development consultant whose practice focuses on the delivery of training services to libraries and other information organizations. She has more than twenty five years of experience as a consultant on leadership, and in 2016 she was presented with the Joseph W. Lippincott Award by the ALA for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship.

Maureen also very graciously agreed to lead a breakout session on leadership skills and practices in difficult situations. In keeping with the theme for this year’s Institute, Building a Better Librarianship: Cross Training Ourselves for the Future, other breakout session included topics focused on career transitions, such as from a public to an academic librarian, or children’s librarian to director.

In addition to a stimulating array of programs, participants enjoyed an excellent lunch as well as a wine and cheese reception at the end of the day during a drawing was held for door prizes, including two complimentary one day registrations to the 2018 CLA Annual Conference. ♦
note. Afternoon sessions focused on assessment, media literacy, creating an information studies curriculum, teaching students to evaluate information need, and creating an open resource textbook for an Information Literacy curriculum.

The CT Information Literacy Conference provides an opportunity for librarians to come together and learn about topics involving information literacy and pedagogy. The planning committee is committed to bringing strong programming to the conference each year, so that librarians can network and share their work with others. This conference is one of the few that focuses on information literacy, which is an important student learning outcome as stated in the NEASC accreditation standards 4.12 and 4.15. The conference is growing each year, as institutions recognize the major role that academic librarians take in providing information literacy instruction to students.

For more information about the Connecticut Information Literacy Conference please check out our website. ♦

Janet M. Hess Crozier
Jan was employed at the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook for over 34 years. She served as director from 1992-2010. Jan began her library career as assistant to the children's librarian in the Boston Public Library system and then went on to serve as Acton's children's librarian, assistant director and then director. In this capacity, she was an instrumental part of creating the statewide Young Adult Division of the Connecticut Library Association. As director, she was part of the building committee that renovated the library from 7,800 square feet to 21,415 square feet in 2003.

Lynne Newell
Lynne received her undergraduate degree in English from Ohio University, and eventually her master's degree in library science from Syracuse University. She worked for the State Library of Connecticut for many years before retiring and moving to Maine to be closer to family. Her love of reading was also well known, and she would often go through several books per week in her retirement.

Marie E. Powers
She began her library career in the Agawam Public Library in Massachusetts, then went on to the position of head librarian at the Somers Public Library. Among her many contributions there, she always said, the most important was recommending, promoting and finally, in 1988 seeing established, a modern, spacious library to replace an older one the town had long since outgrown. In 1990, as a reference librarian, she joined the staff of Trident Technical College (South Carolina,) from which she retired in 1998. Of her work there, she remembered the most unusual, but gratifying experience, being hugged by satisfied patrons, a response to her help she had never had before.
Cora J. Belden Library reference librarian Michael Murphy made sure his son Luke got started right away with 1,000 books before kindergarten. Luke, on his first outing, came to the library to get his library card!

Alan Hagyard, longtime executive director of Libraries Online, Inc., has retired. Joseph Farara of Jeffersonville, VT joined LION as its new executive director on Aug. 14. Joe was previously the director of the Willey Library at Johnson State College, where he had managed library operations since 1990. He has also held the positions of chief technology officer and associate dean for technology at JSC. And, beginning in 2002, Joe took on the role of director of library planning for the Vermont State Colleges. Dedicated to working toward increased access through shared resources for his entire career, LION welcomes Joe and looks forward to working with him.

Linda Geffner, library director of the Pope Pius XII Library at the University of Saint Joseph has retired. The new library director is Timothy Salm.

J. Drusilla Carter is stepping down as director of the Cromwell Belden Library, effective Aug. 21st. Lois Meltzer will once again be stepping up as interim director.

Reference librarian, Nancy Haag of North Haven Memorial Library is retiring.

Bob Hull, North Branford Public Libraries director, is retiring after 41 years of service.

Sandra Neary, director of the Burnham Library in Bridgewater for nearly 25 years will be retiring on Aug. 31. Jean Kallay, who has been in charge of the Junior Library, will be replacing Sandy. Chris Fisher, who has also worked at the library, will become the assistant director.

Mary Lee Bulat, children’s librarian at the Harwinton Public Library, will be retiring on Aug. 25. Mary began a long career in librarianship as a page at the Dinosaur Library at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, where she attended college. Mary has worked in several Connecticut libraries, including 10 years spent at the director of the Beardsley & Memorial Library in Winsted. Mary has been the children’s librarian in Harwinton since 2007. We in Harwinton are sorry to be losing our “Miss Mary,” but she has been involved in libraries all her life and assures us she will remain involved in the years ahead.

Children’s librarian, Marcy Goldman was recently promoted to head of children’s services at Hamden’s Miller Memorial Central Library. Marcy, a West Haven resident, originally came to Hamden as a library technical assistant in 2002. From 2007 to 2009 she participated in ALA/PLA’s "Grow Your Own @ Your Library" grant program for library science students and received her MLIS from Florida State University in 2010. She was promoted to Librarian I in June of that year. A familiar face to children and parents alike, Marcy brings enthusiasm and creativity to her job on a daily basis--strong assets for her new position.

Beth Grimes was promoted to head of teen services at Stratford Library in July. For the past five years, Beth has worked at Stratford Library as a reference librarian. She has been responsible for managing the library’s social media accounts, running programs, collection development, answering tech questions, and of course, helping people with their research. Recently, she was recognized with the CLA 2017 Excellence in Public Library Service Award, along with her co-worker, for their innovative programming series geared to the millennial crowd. Prior to Stratford Library, Beth worked at Darien Library as a teen services intern, a technology assistant, and a knowledge and learning services librarian.

The Berlin-Peck Library is happy to announce the arrival of 2 new staff members. Jonathan Noyes joined the circulation staff in July. He formerly interned at the West Hartford Library. Children’s librarian Alyssa Skorski started in August. Alyssa has worked in Newington, Westerfield and Windsor.

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James Blackstone Memorial Library associate librarian for youth services Carly Lemire and youth services assistant Mary Lockery were inducted into the Branford Education Hall of Fame. “Miss Carly” and “Miss Mary” were nominated by members of the community and recognized for their outstanding contribution to education.

Amanda L. Goodman, publicity manager at Darien Library, was elected a LITA director-at-large (one of three overall) for 2017 to 2020. LITA is the Library and Information Technology Association division of ALA. LITA “leads in exploring and enabling new technologies to empower libraries. LITA members use the promise of technology to deliver dynamic library collections and services.”

Library assistant Jasmine Cedeno from the Southington Public Library has won the 2017 ALA Spectrum scholarship for $6500. This scholarship includes a trip to New Orleans to attend the 2018 ALA conference. She is pursuing her M.L.I.S. at San Jose State University.

Congrats to Carl Antonucci, director of the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library, and Sharon Clapp, digital resources librarian at CCSU, on the recent publication of The LITA Leadership Guide: The Librarian as Entrepreneur, Leader, and Technologist.

The LITA Leadership Guide from the American Library Association division charged with information technology brings together three important professional development topics -- leadership, entrepreneurship, and technology -- in one volume, uniting theory, practice, and case studies from experienced colleagues in the field. Topics include: cultivating creativity, career pivots, forecasting and planning for change, keeping tech and leadership skills ahead of the curve, and incorporating lessons and knowledge from across sectors.