Best Wishes to Ken Wiggin on his Retirement!

CLA Past President Kate Byroade (at podium) gives remarks at the retirement reception on Dec. 6 for State Librarian Ken Wiggin (standing next to his portrait.) Also in the background are three other past presidents of CLA: Carl DeMilia, Arlene Bielefeld and Mary Etter.

After 21 years, State Librarian Kendall Wiggin is retiring.

CLA members share their thoughts on his years of service and leadership.

Kate Byroade
Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester

I recently learned that Ken Wiggin sits on or liaises with 26 different boards, committees, commissions, and organizations. Though most are statewide, they range from the very local (Friends of Coltsville) to the national (the Council of State Library Agencies). Figuring that many of these meetings take up a half day a month, I calculate that Ken has often spent as much as half his work time working with the State Library’s many partners. It’s a credit to his organizational skills, ability to retain detail and to build relationships that he has made contributions to all of them.

CLA, of course, has been one of them. He’s both a personal member and reports on the State Library’s many programs and projects to the CLA board each month. He puts forward ideas, mentions people and organizations to connect with, and can draw on his 21 years at the table to answer those pesky questions about CLA’s past.

Ken has been a faithful friend and partner over the years. He has spoken tirelessly for the interests of libraries and cultural institutions, overseen exemplary archival projects, and made sure that librarians were identified as vital partners on boards, commissions, and projects. He has written letters to local elected officials in support of local library budgets. He has supported dozens of public library renovation and building projects and worked to get every public library in the state connected to high speed broadband Internet access. He has even supported the effort to send Connecticut teenagers to France to reconstruct American World War I trenches!

Ken’s legacy of partnership and collaboration paves the way for...
Monday, April 27 Keynote
Lance Werner
"Better Libraries and Stronger Communities Through Kindness, Empathy and Love"
Lance has served as executive director for Kent District Library since 2011. He received a juris doctorate degree from Michigan State University's College of Law and his master's degree in library science from Wayne State University (WSU). In 2018 he was chosen as Library Journal’s Librarian of the Year, and in years past he was the recipient of the Joey Rodger Leadership Award from the Urban Libraries Council, Librarian of the Year Award from the Michigan Library Association (MLA), the WSU Distinguished Alumni award, and Library Journal’s Mover and Shaker Award. Lance is currently involved in the ALA Policy Corps, WSU’s Capital Campaign, MLA’s legislative committee, and recently graduated from Michigan Political Leadership Course.

Tuesday, April 28 Keynote
Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
"What the World Needs Now"
Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MLS, LEED AP) is the executive director of the Mid-Hudson Library System. Rebekkah currently serves as the co-chair of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Special Task Force on Sustainability, as an advisory board member for the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries, and is the co-founder of both the ALA Sustainability Round Table and the New York Library Association’s Sustainability Initiative. A frequent international speaker on the topic of libraries and sustainability, Rebekkah is the author of Sustainable Thinking: Ensuring Your Library’s Future in an Uncertain World and Resilience, part of the Library Futures Series from ALA Editions. Learn more about Rebekkah at http://SustainableLibraries.org

Monday Lunch Author Talk & Book Signing
Nancy Pearl
"The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading"
Nancy Pearl is a best-selling author, librarian, and literary critic, but first and foremost, she is a reader and has spent her life promoting reading as one of the most beneficial and joyful experiences anyone can have. Among her many honors are the 2011 Librarian of the Year Award from Library Journal and the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association. Nancy is the creator of the internationally recognized program If All of Seattle Read the Same Book, and was the inspiration for the Archee McPhee “librarian action figure.”
future efforts of the broader Connecticut library community. I’m grateful for Ken’s years of thoughtful leadership and partnership and I’m looking forward to his assistance with library advocacy in the coming years. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Ken!

Colleen Bailie
West Haven Library
It has been a joy and pleasure to work with Ken on the Commission for Educational Technology. Ken’s insight and wisdom has helped educate the commission on the importance of libraries and librarians in discussions surrounding education and technology. He will be sorely missed!

Ida D. McGhee, retired
Hartford Public Library
Ken, thanks for all that you have done to ensure the best for all Connecticut libraries. It was a pleasure to work with you while I was on the CLA Board. All the best and welcome to retirement!!!

Patricia S. Banach (Emerita)
J. Eugene Smith Library
Eastern Connecticut State University
I worked collaboratively with Ken Wiggin for 13 years when I served as director of library services at Eastern Connecticut State University. Because the State Library shared the same library system with the Connecticut state universities, and later with the entire Connecticut state colleges and universities, Ken was in attendance at the regular meetings of these groups. I was always impressed with Ken’s thoughtful and informed comments. When multiple libraries share something as crucial as a single library system, there can be conflicting points of view that need to be reconciled for the benefit of the group. Ken was very adept at offering wise advice on both process and strategy. Even though he was directing a different type of library, I especially valued his take on any given issue precisely because his input was coming from a different perspective. Ken was a wonderful and collegial colleague and his contributions to all aspects of library service in the state are really too numerous to fully articulate. He will be greatly missed. We all owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

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Message from the President

First, I’d like to recognize State Librarian Ken Wiggin for his many years of dedicated service to and advocacy for Connecticut libraries. Ken, you have left quite a legacy and it has been a pleasure to work with you. Best wishes as you begin your retirement!

The CLA board has been hard at work. The sections have held successful fall workshops and have contributed to the over 74 program proposals which have been submitted for April’s annual conference. The conference committee has secured a number of sponsorships to help offset the cost of the event and are busy reviewing program proposals and coordinating exhibitors. Legislative Committee co-chair Beth Crowley has completed the listening tour in all six regions and reported a summary of information gathered at the December board meeting. A task force has been formed to investigate CLA’s sustainability for the future. CLA past president Glenn Grube has graciously agreed to serve as chair of this group. The task force will be looking at the association structure, evaluating expenses and the many facets of membership and will take into consideration the feedback received through the listening tour. Finally, select sections are currently working to develop a statement on equity, diversity and inclusion which will be accepted by the CLA board in early 2020.

This year for the first time, CLA will be offering a full scholarship for a first-time attendee to attend the association’s annual conference which will be held at the Mystic Marriott April 26-28. The application can be found on the CLA website under the “Awards & More” menu and must be received by Jan. 24. This scholarship is being funded through the legacy fund.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the legacy fund. I’m thrilled to report that with the generous match, we have surpassed our goal by over $650. As you know, the association’s operating budget this year relies heavily on fundraising, primarily gifts to the legacy fund. It’s been many years since CLA has actively raised funds and we were not certain how it would be received. Thanks to you, it’s been a success and will help to strengthen our organization and further our mission. If you haven’t yet contributed, please consider doing so before Dec. 31 so your gift will be matched dollar for dollar. Legacy Fund donations may be made online.

As a member-driven organization, it’s all of you and your work and dedication that make CLA great.
Happy holidays! ♦

Lisa Karim is the director of the Simsbury Public Library

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Help make April a celebration of Connecticut libraries!

Click here to register!

Registration is $10 per library. The registration fees fund the raffle prizes. All registrations must be in by February 17th.

Based on the CT Wine Trail passport program, the library passport program will be held during the month of April to highlight National Library Week 2020 and to give people a way to use their free time during spring break.

Every participating library will print the template passport that the public libraries section will provide, and offer it to their patrons. Each library will be responsible for stamping their visitors’ passports and giving each visitor a small gift (pencil, pen, magnet, etc.)

We will be raffling off a total of four $150 gift cards, one for adults and one for children in each category. Category one: each participant who visits at least five libraries will earn a raffle ticket. Category two: each library will select the adult and the child who have visited the most libraries for submission to the public libraries Section. There will be a final "all libraries" raffle among the contestants who have visited the most libraries.

It is up to each library to decide if they wish to offer further prizes to their own patron participants. There will be a dedicated Facebook page. We hope everyone will contribute pictures during the event that highlight what makes each library spectacular.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Maria Zervos, Public Libraries Section Chair
mzervos@westhavenlibrary.org
203.937.4233 x4515 ♦

2018
By the Numbers
149 libraries participated
627 passports issued
2,664 passports stamped
277 passports returned
NEW: Conference Scholarship Available for First-time CLA Conference Attendee

Have you ever wanted to attend the annual CLA conference but couldn’t due to finances? Well, here is your chance! CLA is providing one member who has never attended the CLA annual conference the opportunity to attend the 2020 conference for free. Two days attendance, travel and lodging will be paid for by CLA as a conference scholarship. If you are interested, please complete the application.

Send to:
Peter F. Ciparelli, PEG Chair
petercip73@gmail.com

Application statements must be received by Dec. 31. The winner will be announced January 24th and will be expected to attend and submit a report on the program or programs of their choice.

Legacy Fund

The CLA legacy fund was created to help support the sustainability of the Connecticut Library Association. This unrestricted board fund will support one scholarship for a first-time CLA annual conference attendee, scholarships for staff advancing their professional degrees and professional enhancement grants (PEG) annually. It may also be used to fund expenses key to the mission of the organization.

Donations made through the end of 2019 will be matched!

Don’t miss your chance to be recognized by the Connecticut library community for your creativity and talent!

The CLA publicity awards, sponsored by the Publicity and Communications Committee, recognize accomplishments in design, marketing, and publicity by Connecticut libraries. Materials designed to promote a library service or event are accepted.

Winners will be chosen for print media (two awards), electronic media (two awards), small library, and the designer’s award for most creative standalone design. A panel of professional designers/artists and a representative from the library field will choose the winning entries.

Libraries may submit new, original designs created during the 2019 calendar year. One design per category will be accepted. Please do not resubmit projects that have won awards in previous years, unless the design has undergone significant changes.

Submissions must include a completed submission form, a design example, and a description.

All entry materials must be submitted electronically to lfarrell@farmingtonlibraries.org or mailed to Leah Farrell, Farmington Libraries, 6 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032.

Judges’ decisions are final. Entry materials will not be returned. Winners will be honored at the CLA annual conference with an awards ceremony and display. Awards will be presented during the annual meeting.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, 2020.

QUESTIONS? Email or call Leah Farrell at lfarrell@farmingtonlibraries.org or 860.673.6791 x5212.
Call for Nominations

Each year, the CT Library Association recognizes the work done by the librarians, library supporters, and libraries in the state. Awards are presented at the annual conference.

2020 Information and Application

Our awards are:

The Outstanding Librarian Award honors the career accomplishments of a librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his or her library and to the library profession. The following categories suggest areas in which the nominee may have rendered significant service: outstanding service in his/her field of expertise, e.g. reference, children’s services, administrative, or technical services; involvement in statewide leadership; encouragement of community/institutional support for the library. Preference will be given to nominees who have achieved in more than one area. The nominee must be a member of CLA.

The Special Achievement Award honors an individual who has implemented a significant project or initiated an innovative program during the past year. The achievement being honored should have had significant impact on the library, the community, or the library profession. This award may be given to the same individual more than once. The Awards Committee reserves the right to present more than one Special Achievement Award.

The Edith B. Nettleton Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding record of volunteer service to his or her library. This award is presented in the name of Edith B. Nettleton who served as Guilford Town Librarian from 1933-1978. After retiring, she returned to the Library as a volunteer, organizing the historical collection and serving for 35 years.

The Excellence in Public Library Service Awards honor public libraries that have provided an outstanding program or service to their communities. They are given in 2 population categories (15,000 and under or over 15,000). Nominations are judged on creativity and innovation, service to the community, leadership in creating model programs and programs which will affect the future of the library and its community.

The News Media Award honors an individual journalist or news organization for coverage of libraries and/or the principles of librarianship in an exemplary way during the past year. Exemplary media coverage can be evidenced through editorials, features, news reporting and/or special event reporting. Coverage may focus on library issues such as services to special populations and other appropriate topics. Copies of articles and other relevant material should be submitted with this nomination.

The Adeline Mix Award honors a full or part-time student enrolled in an approved graduate or undergraduate library education program, and enables the student to attend this year’s CLA Annual Conference. A grant of $250 will be awarded to cover conference registration, meals, and accommodations. Applicants must be a member of CLA, and the winner must agree to attend the Awards Ceremony and to write a brief article on his or her impressions of the conference for CLA Today. Applications may be no longer than two typed pages and must include the following information: status of current library school studies, education, degrees and honors, statement of need, and completion of a narrative describing how attendance at the conference will assist the candidate’s professional development.

The Intellectual Freedom Award recognizes an individual for the demonstration of extraordinary personal courage in the defense of intellectual freedom, or for the implementation of a successful and creative project developed to raise awareness of intellectual freedom issues, or for a published work on intellectual freedom.

The Support Staff Award honors an outstanding library assistant or support staff member.

The Supporter of Support Staff Award honors a library administrator or manager who promotes the role of library assistants and support staff.

The Faith Hektoen Award is awarded by the Children’s Section awards the Faith Hektoen Award, recognizing: 1) Career achievement in the field of children's services, or 2) An outstanding program or project that has made a significant impact on library service for children in Connecticut. Nominations may be made by anyone in the library community, excepting current selection committee members.
People in the News

After 34 dedicated years, the director of library services for the town of North Haven, Patricia LaTerza, retired in November. She joined the staff at the North Haven Library as head of children’s services in 1985. In 2015, LaTerza became the assistant director of library services. In 2016, she was appointed as director.

Nancy Brewer, children’s librarian for Ledyard Library will retire on Dec. 31. During her tenure she prepared scores of children for kindergarten with story times, encouraged children to read over the summer with programs and helped numerous children and teens find information for school projects.

Martha Brogan, city librarian at the New Haven Free Public Library, has retired.

The Connecticut State Library, Division of Library Development is pleased to welcome Brad Bullis as the new digital content and innovation coordinator. Brad comes to DLD from the New Haven Free Public Library, where he was the business and infrastructure administrator. DLD also welcomed Christine Gauvreau as the LSTA coordinator. Chris was most recently the project coordinator for the CT Digital Newspaper Project

Andrew “Sherm” Sherman has joined the Simsbury Public Library as the business resource center coordinator. Sherm has been a librarian for the past decade, was an American Library Association emerging leader, and holds a Master’s degree in Library & Information Science from the University of Missouri. Before becoming a librarian, Sherm had a successful IT career in banking and distribution.

Victoria Kiszka began work as a part-time library technician at the Avon Free Public Library on Dec. 3.

The Huntington Branch Library in Shelton is happy to welcome a new children’s librarian, Jessica Prutting. Prior to working at the Huntington Branch Library, Prutting was a library media specialist for Region 14 and spent the past 4 years working for Region 16.

Ayanna Wright joined the Russell Library team as the new teen librarian. She is currently pursuing her MLIS at the University of Southern Mississippi. In addition, Shannon Wild will be joining the Russell Library team as a youth librarian, beginning on Dec. 30. While she is new to the library field, Shannon has considerable experience working with young people, most recently as a fifth-grade classroom teacher in Meriden.

At the Milford Public Library, Diana Preece is the new head of reference services. Danielle Valenzano has been promoted to young adult librarian.

At Fairfield University, Christina S. McGowan has been appointed dean of the DiMenna-Nyselius Library and university librarian effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Obituary

Gloria Peterson Rapp, 81, passed away peacefully on Nov. 14. She had a long career in public libraries, including the Brooklyn Public Library System, the Monroe Free Library in Monroe, New York, and the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury.
Hartford Public Library has been selected to receive an award of $40,000 for new children’s books that will expand the library’s mission. First Book, the nonprofit social enterprise focused on equal access to quality education for children in need, awarded the funds as part of its OMG Books Awards: Offering More Great Books to Spark Innovation, a program that will give more than $4.7 million in funding to distribute 1.5 million brand new books and eBooks to children living in low-income communities in 33 U.S. states and territories. This generous award enables Hartford Public Library, in concert with Hartford Public Schools, to distribute more than 12,000 books to 4,000 Hartford school children.

Journey Home and the Hartford Public Library have been named as the 2019 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders® awardees for Hartford, Connecticut. The nonprofits were selected for their work in the Hartford area to address issues fundamental to economic mobility, including leading the effort to end homelessness in the capital region and launching a state-of-the-art Digital Media Lab. As an awardee, each organization receives a $200,000 grant, leadership training for the executive director and an emerging leader at the organization, a network of peer organizations across the U.S., and the opportunity to access capital to expand their impact. Journey Home is a non-profit organization that leads the effort to end chronic homelessness in the greater Hartford region.

Toasting Ken Wiggin at the New England Library Conference. “Thank you Ken for your years as the Connecticut state librarian. Wishing you all the best in your retirement.”

CLA member Ida D. McGhee (retired, Hartford Public Library) pictured far right with other Rhode Island librarians and Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress (far left) at the “The Future of Libraries” on Nov. 4 at the Cranston Public Library, Cranston, RI.

(l-r) Mary Etter, director of South Windsor Library; Kate Byrode, director of Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester; Ken Wiggin; Susan Edmonds, NELA president, and director of the Milford Town Library in Milford, MA.
Reporting Censorship

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom is collecting information about censorship, challenges, and access issues that happened in 2019 in libraries, schools, and universities. I encourage everyone to share your censorship story to help the office capture trends and create resources.

Has your library or school received/experienced in 2019:
- requests to cancel a program
- complaints about a display or exhibit
- books with hateful drawings inside or profanity marked out
- "disappearing" books hidden in an effort to restrict access
- first amendment "auditors"
- challenges to computer/internet access

Please submit information about the incidents using this form (http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report) by Dec. 31, even if you don’t need challenge support (you intellectual freedom fighter pro, you!). All personal and institutional information submitted will be kept confidential.

As always, if you need local support dealing with a challenge or censorship issue - you can reach Sam Lee, CLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair, by email at slee@enfield.org or by phone at 860-763-7005.

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

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

www.ctlibraryassociation.org

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