Libraries through the Looking Glass

The 125th Annual Conference was held on April 21 & 22 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Keynote speakers were Ben Bizzle and James LaRue. Lunchtime speakers were Roz Chast and Brian Mayer. Many thanks to conference co-chairs Tom Piezzo and Katy Dillman, and exhibits chair Brandie Doyle.

Elizabeth @QueryNLibrarian · Apr 22
"Your Digital self connects to a real person. You only have one, and you should protect it." #donottrack web series, #clacon

Shift from library-centric planning to community-focused librarianship - applies to all library types #clacon

Nicole Scherer @girlplusbooks · Apr 22
Thanks #clacon & all who attended Keep Calm & Love Your Fandoms! Sara and I had a blast. Now go out & bring your nerds home to the library!

Stratford Library CT @StratfordLib · Apr 21
A BIG shout-out to the @CTLibAssoc for making #Day1 of #CLAcon as fun, informative, & inspiring as it was! Can’t wait for #Day2! 👏 #CLA2016

stefanie @bulldogandbooks · Apr 22
If we want to save the world, we begin with children #clacon

LibraryLady @NewbieLib · Apr 21
It’s all about the #minecraft at #clacon

Julie Styles @641point5 · Apr 21
Don’t call it self checkout. Call it express checkout. #clacon
Welcome to the conference review issue of CLA Today. Many thanks to our reporters.

Onward with eGo

Sponsored by: Resource Sharing Section

Onward with eGo: Statewide E-Books & More presented by Eric Hansen, electronic resources coordinator at the Connecticut State Library and Micah May, director of business development, New York Public Library

Eric reviewed the process by which the State Library and others in Connecticut researched the need for E-Books in libraries and for more accommodating terms from publishers. He traced the path from the ACLPD E-Book Task Force to the State Library to the State Legislature to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to the Bond Commission to an eventual cash allotment to the State Library to develop its own statewide E-Book platform. For this purpose the State Library has entered into an agreement with the NYPL to develop the apps, middleware, and connectors Connecticut will need to produce its own version of the Library Simplified service enjoyed by NYPL users.

May presented a high-level discussion of the state of E-book publishing and the path any given E-Book title takes from publisher to aggregator to vendor to libraries. He proposes a model of library E-book acquisitions wherein libraries will be able to use a third party software to collaboratively purchase or license content directly from publishers at a substantial savings, and in which public domain titles will be available at little or no cost. He anticipates publishers will agree to this model because they will expect libraries to plow the savings realized back into more content from them. May then demonstrated the features of NY-PL’s SimplyE app on an iPad for the audience of about 30.

Reported by Eric Hansen

The What & Why of Accessibility

The panel, including an advocate from the state and two library patrons with disabilities, examined library obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Elanah Sherman from the Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities<http://www.ct.gov/opapd/site/default.asp> (elanah.sherman@ct.gov) began with an overview of ADA sections Title II and Title III that apply to municipal and association libraries respectively. She described some ways of communicating effectively with people with visual, hearing, and speech disabilities, such as through assistive listening systems, large-print copies of program handouts, accessible websites, and text-to-speech conversion. She recommended that libraries develop a procedure for patrons to request accessibility accommodations as well as develop an affirmative policy that ensures reasonable accommodation without undue burden on the library. In addition, the library should have a page on its website describing its physical and programmatic accessibility.

Ray DeBlasio described the barriers he encounters as a person with a visual disability, including difficulties getting to the library if public transportation doesn’t work, as well as unhelpful customer service within the library and a lack of clear explanations that would enable him to navigate independently. As a solution, he suggested more personalized assistance from library staff.

Niall Tarrell said that his concerns as a wheelchair user are, “Can I get there, can I get in, and can I use what’s there?” He encouraged librarians to think of the ADA as a starting point for accessibility,
Often the last column of the out-going CLA President is a general wrap-up and thank you message. I certainly am grateful to have been elected president and to have had the opportunity to serve the CLA in this role. My sincerest thanks and appreciation goes out to all of my wonderful colleagues who have volunteered their time and efforts on the CLA Board and in the numerous committees and sections. Your friendship and support during my term has meant a lot to me. Also, many thanks to Jennifer Keohane and her staff at CLC, Ken Wiggin and Dawn LaValle at the State Library and the incredibly accommodating staff at the Middletown Library Service Center and to Jennifer Datum for all her work on the webpage and newsletter. Finally, I have to thank all of you who have chosen to be members of the CLA because without you our association wouldn’t exist.

Now, rather than just giving you a wrap-up of the CLA year, for the rest of this column, I want to touch on a topic that has been on my mind lately: the need to break down the silos between types of libraries, librarians, and even professionals and support staff.

I have lived my entire life in Connecticut so I am well-versed in the concept of each town or county unto itself but it really bothers me how divisional we can be in our profession. Maybe it starts in library school when we pick a “track” and then continues as we are hired into a specific library and placed in a specific division with a specific title and job responsibilities. Then we attend the annual conference and are drawn to those topics that would be most useful to our particular work while eschewing other opportunities to learn outside of our specialty. All of this is natural and to be expected but now having spent time looking at our profession from the 10,000-foot view I can also see how this insularity can be limiting both to an individual’s professional growth and to the sustainability of our organizations.

While there are differences, I believe as library workers we are more alike than we think. Whether you work in an academic, public or special library, in an urban, suburban or rural setting, or whether you have an MLS, LTA, or a degree in something else entirely, we are all in the profession of helping people gain access to information. Customer service is at the core of everything we do and the vast majority of us need public money to support and run our institutions. When we only worry about the needs of our own department or particular type of library, we miss an opportunity to partner with other advocates and to develop mutually beneficial relationships that together are stronger than their separate parts. For example, if children’s staff and adult staff work together on a library-wide program the quality of the ideas and economies of scale can be significant. Academic librarians have a strong knowledge base in instructional methods for teaching information literacy that their local public library could capitalize on when it comes to providing classes where this specialized instruction may be needed. At the same time,
Annual Awards Ceremony

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE AWARD
(Population <15,000)
Woodbury Public Library

CLA SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Tom Bruno, Westport Public Library (formerly Yale)

FAITH HEKTOEN OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD
Allison Whiston and Claudette Stockwell, Killingly Public Library

FAITH HEKTOEN CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Susan Ford, New Milford Public Library

CLA/ACLB MLS SCHOLARSHIPS
Kelly Parlin, Douglas Library of Hebron
University of Rhode Island

Alyssa Standish, Meriden Public Library
San Jose State

LTA SCHOLARSHIP
Kathleen Molski, Russell Library
Three Rivers Community College

FAIRFIELD COUNTY LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR’S GROUP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Sarah Mias, Farmington Public Libraries
University of Rhode Island

Shayna Simpson, Wilton Library and Fairchild Nichols Memorial Library, University of Washington

CLA SUPPORTER OF SUPPORT STAFF AWARD
Lorrie Goings, The Ferguson Library, Stamford

CLA SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD
Clare Betz, Douglas Library of Hebron

EDITH B. NETTLETON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Terry Ziegler, Groton Public Library

NEWS MEDIA AWARD
Trumbull Times
Steve Coulter, Editor
2016 CLA Publicity Awards

Electronic Media – Video, In House
The Ferguson Library
Designers: Linda Avellar

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, In House
Otis Library
Designer: Cornell McNair

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, In House
Darien Library
Designers: John Blyberg and Manny Perez

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, Professional
Prosser Public Library
Designer: Abi Cushman, Brown Bear Creative

Electronic Media – Other, In House (Annual Report)
James Blackstone Memorial Library
Designer: Katy Dillman

Electronic Media – Other, In House (Instagram)
Cheshire Public Library
Designer: Louise LeClaire

Electronic Media – Other, Professional (Library Guide)
CT State Library
Designers: Jeff Lin

Print Media – Bookmark, Professional
Scoville Memorial Library
Designer: CO:LAB, Hartford, CT

Print Media – Other, In House
Waterford Public Library
Designer: Kathy Huestis

Honorable Mention: Kent Memorial Library
Designer: Lucy C. Pierpont

Honorable Mention: Wilton Library
Designer: Janet Crystal

Honorable Mention: Darien Library
Designer: Amanda L. Goodman

Print Media – Library Logo, In House
Wilton Library
Designer: Janet Crystal

Print Media – Library Logo, Professional
Prosser Public Library
Designer: Abi Cushman, Brown Bear Creative

Honorable Mention: The Norfolk Library
Designer: Seth Girardin, Augustudios

Thematic Project – In House
Darien Library
Designer: Lisa Nowlain

Thematic Project – In House
Russell Library
Designer: Ann Smith

Honorable Mention: Wilton Library
Designer: Shayna Simpson

Honorable Mention: Booth & Dimock Memorial Library
Designers: Meg Schiebel and Kristi Sadowski

Thematic Project – Professional
Scoville Memorial Library
Designer: CO:LAB, Hartford, CT
One of the most pleasant duties of the CLA Career Development Committee is to award scholarships to students who are pursuing higher education in our profession. For quite some time now CLA has provided financial support for LTA and MLS candidates. We would also like to thank ACLB for contributing $1,000 to the pool of available money for the past few years. What’s more, they have committed to doing so for the next two years, as well.

The most difficult part of the process each year is determining who among the many worthy candidates is deserving of scholarship support. That said the Career Development Committee encourages anyone who is engaged in library science studies to be on the lookout for next year’s scholarship application announcement, which will come out in early 2017.

It was our great pleasure to recognize this year’s scholarship winners. Our LTA scholarship winner was Kathleen Molski. Kathleen has worked at Russell Library in Middletown since 1996 and is in her first semester at Three Rivers CC.

Our MLS scholarships were awarded to Kelly Parlin and Alyssa Standish. Kelly has worked at several libraries since 2012, and is currently employed at the Douglas Library in Hebron. She attends URI and expects to graduate in the spring of 2017. Alyssa has been working in libraries since 2009, and has been employed at the Meriden Public Library since 2013. She attends San Jose State and expects to graduate in December, 2016.

Congratulations to this year’s scholarship winners!

The Career Development Committee would like to thank the following people for volunteering to serve as résumé reviewers during the Resuscitate Your Résumé programs held on both days of the conference: Colleen Baille; Maxine Bleiweis; Melissa Canham Clyne; Janet Flewelling; Ellen Cartledge-Janpol; Dawn LaValle; Kirk Morrison; Jason Neely; Gaye Rizzo; Judy Sgambaro; Julie Styles, and Sheri Szymanski.

These wonderful colleagues were kind enough to give back to their profession by assisting over twenty people who were either engaged in a job search or attempting to move up the career ladder. What’s more, they stuck around until the last session of each day to give of their time. Kudos to you all!
public libraries can provide the computer access and test proctoring that schools offering distance learning rely on. If rural and urban libraries joined forces to present a wider picture of how they both serve populations who depend on library services, the singular message would reach a larger legislative audience and possibly result in more funding for both types of communities.

Maybe it’s a quirk of my own personality that I am never satisfied in only learning one skill and sticking with it. I tend to be curious about many different areas of life and this includes the different areas of librarianship. My passion is public libraries and youth services but once I moved up the management ladder, it was a relief to attend workshops on topics that had a broader range. As the CLA President, I have worked with librarians from many different disciplines and library-types and have learned a great deal from all of them. As we now face some tough economic times and the need to reevaluate library services and how they are provided in Connecticut, I hope we can come together to discuss the best ways for us to move forward and sustain and improve the all of the wonderful library services in our state.

It has been an honor to serve as the CLA president this year and I look forward to working with the new leadership, and board to continue to best serve all of our members. Have a wonderful and safe summer! ♡

**Annual Meeting Highlights**

**President’s Report, Beth Crowley**

**Year in Review**
- CLA hired a new lobbying firm, Gallo & Robinson
- Fact sheets and advocacy have had a good educational effect on legislators in Hartford; please continue to discuss the importance of libraries with your local legislators
- Beth testified at the Appropriations Committee meeting along with several other librarians
- CLA hired Libby Post to offer advocacy training workshops in each of the 6 CLA Regions
- CLA worked with Three Rivers Community College to advocate for their LTA program, which will be moving online instead of being cancelled
- Beth wrote a letter to President Obama and all CT Representatives in Washington to support appointing a degreed Librarian as the next Librarian of Congress
- Beth also wrote a letter in support of continued funding for the Radio Service for the Library of the Blind and the Disabled
- CLA was part of a new coalition called CT Places Matter

Thank you to Ken Wiggin, Dawn LaValle, Jennifer Keohane and CLC, Kate Robinson, Bobby Shea, all the section and committee chairs, Karen Jensen and CLA members

The **minutes from the 2015 annual meeting** were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**

*Karen Jensen, CLA President Elect/Interim Treasurer*

Financial statements are in good shape and we’re on target to finish out the fiscal year as planned

**CLA Bylaws Revision**

*Christine Angeli, CLA Procedures Chair*

Chris gave notice of an upcoming vote for 3 changes to the bylaws. All personal members of CLA will receive an email ballot in the coming weeks and have 30 days to complete the voting process

**Presentation of Candidates for CLA Office**

*Dawn LaValle* presented the following slate:

**Vice President/President Elect**
- Glenn Grube, Avon Free Public Library

**Treasurer**
- Scott Brill, Huntington Branch Library

**Region 2 Representative**
- Susan Ray, Simsbury Public Library

**Region 3 Representative**
- Drusilla Carter, Willimantic Public Library
- Elizabeth Thornton, Bentley Memorial Library

**Region 6 Representative**—no nominations
C O N T I N U E D  F R O M  P .  2

not the end point, and seconded Ray’s request for staff who are welcoming, helpful, and committed to access.

Reported by Maria Bernier, chair of the ADA committee

Building the Village

Building the Village: Sustained Programming to Meet Diverse Community Needs

“Inspirational”, “motivating” were just a few of the words describing Diane Brown, 2015 “I Love My Librarian” honoree and branch manager, NHFPL, Stetson Branch Library, program describing her unconventional path and labor of love, creating the “village” where members of the Dixwell neighborhood could gather to share a safe warm and nurturing environment. Diane was instrumental in over a period of two years working with the base her predecessor began to establish Stetson as the hub and heartbeat of the Dixwell community. Diane is a master of building dynamic long-lasting partnerships with organizations, city agencies, schools, artists, educators to develop diverse, educational and culturally enriching programming that is sustained with little or no funding. Diane’s dedication is evident when you walk into the oasis that is Stetson, with teens playing chess as part of a mentoring initiative; children engaged in Africa is Me activities; parents participating in cultural programming, or just sitting in a comfortable chair reading a book. Diane’s talk stressed the importance of perseverance, persistence and persuasion to gather the resources to serve an underserved population, a population that is underserved no more under Diane’s leadership and simply out of the love for her community, her home.

Reported by Dawn LaValle

We’re Better Together

We’re Better Together: Connecting the Library Community Through Effective School and Public Library Partnerships

Presented by: Anne Porier, library media specialist, Moses Y. Beach School, Wallingford; Sunnie Scarpa, head of children’s services, Wallingford Public Library; Helen Stowe, retired kindergarten teacher and Wallingford program presenter. The panel began with introductions and then panelists shared their favorite from a long list of school/library collaborations. Anne Porier discussed the Beach buddies program; a grant-funded summer family literacy program targeted to reach at-risk K-3 students at Moses Y Beach School with the goal of halting summer learning loss. Sunnie Scarpa shared details about their annual spring author visit and twice weekly Homework Help program. For the past three years, the WPL has brought a Nutmeg nominated author or illustrator to the Wallingford Public Schools for an assembly with the fourth graders from all four schools, followed by a book signing event at the library. Homework Help is offered in conjunction with the Wallingford BOE and is overseen by an award winning bilingual para-educator from MYB. Finally, Helen Stowe summarized the evolution of her Kinderfun program, which migrated from the public library to kindergarten classrooms system wide in response to the change from half-day to full-day kindergarten. She also detailed the monthly storywalk programs she runs for the library, which take place at Choate Rosemary Hall, the private school located in downtown Wallingford. The panelists left plenty of time for Q&A and encouraged attendees to ask for more information on any of the 12+ school/library partnerships outlined in their handout.

Reported by Sunnie Scarpa

Aspen Institute

Aspen Institute: Re-Envisioning CT’s Public Libraries

Maureen Sullivan, consultant to libraries and advisor to the Aspen Institute Dialogue project, facilitated an engaging discussion featuring Aspen Action Guide, national pilot libraries lead by Alice Knapp, president, Ferguson Library; Jo-Ann LoRusso, director, Middlebury Library; Jane Fisher, director, Wallingford Public Library, and Dawn La Valle, director, Division of Library Development, CSL. Maureen provided an overview of the Aspen Institute, Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries, the CT Aspen Report, and the Action Guide. Alice, Jo-Ann and Jane shared with the audience, how they used the Action Guide to engage their community in very unique and distinct ways. They were part of a national pilot of 25 libraries to use the Action Guide and make recommendations to refine the tool for use in all public libraries. The focus of this program was to be a catalyst for new thinking about CT’s public libraries: to explore how public and private sector leaders and the state’s library community together can advance learning and education, support economic development, realize new local and statewide efficiencies and connect people to opportunities and resources to improve their lives and circumstances. From active civic engagement, to health literacy, to building a collaborative to meet changing needs of the 21st century. Dawn shared how the State Library is integrating the Action Guide into DLD’s strategic focus plan; sustained partnerships such as the Access to Justice Working Group, strategic consulting all with the vision to move CT libraries into the 21st Century. The Division of Library Development will be conducting a 14-week pilot of the Aspen Action Guide with 25 selected libraries to provide feedback for the State Library and for the Aspen Institute.

Reported by Dawn LaValle

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The Faith Hektoen Award is given annually by the children’s section of the Connecticut Library Association to recognize the efforts of an individual or group that has made an impact on library services to children in Connecticut at the local, regional, or state level. This award was created in 1979 for Faith Hektoen, who served for over 20 years as the first state consultant for children’s services.

Each year the children’s section presents two awards. The first is for career achievement and the second for outstanding children’s program.

This year’s 2016 Faith Hektoen Award recipient for career achievement is Sue Ford.

Sue Ford has been a part of New Milford’s children’s lives since 1988. The littles ones she first read stories to are now bringing their little ones. These parents are continuing the wonderful cherished memories they had with Sue. Years of programming, of knowing exactly what that young reader is looking for and many years of laughter have endeared her to the hearts of so many. Sue had the unenviable experience recently of having to present the library’s budget to the town council, several of whose members are now those young parents. Who has ever done that presentation to a group of SMILING faces?! One and all, they thanked her for their own special memories and for the wonderful reading experiences their own children are having right now.

Her accomplishments are many. Sue was instrumental in the development of the New Milford Early Childhood Council. An avid knitter, Sue has an impact on adults, too. She began the weekly knitting club. She served as president of children’s roundtable, an adjunct professor of children’s literature at Northwestern Community College, and taught YA literature at Southern CT State University. Sue has participated in Literature Week at the three elementary schools by reading and storytelling. Sue as provided afterschool programs. Sue offered a schoolwide CEU program for teachers held at the library which increased awareness of library resources and the importance of reading.

She helped forge the partnership between the local Head Start and E.K. Harcourt Foundation. One of the larger nursery schools visits the library once a month to have lunch at story time and then check books out. She has co-produced a local storytelling event called “Tellabration!” She has run the “Every Child to Read @ Your Library” program.

Most importantly is her commitment to children and providing a rich environment to foster the love of reading.

This year’s 2016 Faith Hektoen Award recipients for outstanding programming are Allison Whiston and Claudette Stockwell.

The Killingly Library was awarded the New Alliance Foundation’s Public Library Summer Reading Initiative, READY for the Grade Grant. This provided the library with funding for two years to develop a “Remarkable Reader” program focusing on summer reading loss.

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CONTINUED FROM P. 9

Due to the success of this program the New Alliance Foundation has provided additional funding. The Remarkable Reader program will continue for the next three years.

The Killingly Public Library Remarkable Readers program has served the community well in creating and maintaining a network of services and demonstrating significant outcomes in young children’s reading skills. The program is fun and interesting and well-respected within the community.

This successful program happened and continues to impact the children of Killingly due to the hard-working efforts of Allison and Claudette.

Congratulations to the winners!

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
**Continued from p. 8**

**Oh Baby! Playful Programs for the Under Three Crowd**

Presented by: Kari Hamad, children’s librarian, Wallingford Public Library; Allison Murphy, children’s librarian, Wallingford Public Library.

Allison Murphy began the program by outlining her programs “Itty Bitty Babies” for babies age 0-12 months and “Waddling Ones” for ages 12-24 months; then went on to explain the philosophy, planning process, and a number of examples of the most popular elements including songs, rhymes, and bubble time. Kari Hamad then outlined her popular “Musical Mother Goose” program for 1 & 2 year olds, including tips for success, planning and preparation, plus how to deal with common problems. Both presenters demonstrated a number of favorite songs and activities for attendees to try “at home.” During the Q&A period, the presenters offered advice on registration methods, tips for dealing with non-participating parents, and many other helpful tips for working with the library’s smallest patrons.

Reported by Sunnie Scarpa

**Repository Services**

**Seeing Connecticut Now & Then: Repository Services that Support Your Best Memories for the Future**

Presented by: Gregory Colati, assistant university librarian for archives, special collections & digital curation, and Jennifer Eustis, digital repository content administrator, University of Connecticut Libraries.

Sponsored by the Technical Services Section.

Greg reviewed how the world changed from analog to digital and spoke about the dilemma of modern stewardship and how we need to ensure that the resources that support cultural activities exist and be discoverable in the future. In October 2011, UConn libraries created a working group to solve that dilemma. There were four requirements: sustainability, reliability, interoperability and reusability. They chose an open source solution because it’s flexible and customizable. They selected Fedora as its repository architecture, Islandora as the management/presentation interface, and Drupal as the content management system.

The Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) was launched in 2013 in collaboration with the Connecticut State Library. CTDA’s tagline is: Connect. Preserve. Share. It is first a preservation program, but it is also a platform for sharing and is open to Connecticut based non-profit institutions. Participants retain ownership of the content that includes metadata, primary content objects and derivatives. They may add and manage content. CTDA is the custodian of the digital assets and relies on collaborations between and with participants. CTDA provides at no cost the repository and preservation services up to 500GB, end user support, community management services, metadata tools and training on entering content. CTDA content is being harvested and indexed in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and researchIT CT. Currently there are 320,000+ assets being managed covering 20+ institutions, and 38,000+ OAI records.

Go to ctdigitalarchive.org for general information, the service catalog, how-to documents, news about CTDA activities, and links to production channels. Email ctda@uconn.edu to get started with preserving your digital assets. Slides from the presentation are available at: http://www.slideshare.net/CTDigitalArchive/seeing-connecticut-now-and-then-repository-services-that-support-your-best-memories-for-the-future

Reported by Gail Hurley.

**Access to Gender Equitability**

**Access to Gender Equitability: Making libraries Safe and Inclusive Spaces for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Patrons**

I had the pleasure of attending this session which was moderated by our very own CLASS vice-chair Alberto Cifuentes, Jr. The panelist who consisted of Aubri Drake, MSW, Irwin Krieger, LCSW and Diana Lombardi, MSW were all extremely passionate about the library being a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to explore without being afraid or put in the spotlight. The panelist felt most libraries are lacking information and resources needed for LGBT in their communities.

The panelists offered incredibly thoughtful ideas in which to create your library as an inviting environment for LGBT youth and adults. One of the first ideas was to have literature openly visible for kids and LGBT youth. Don’t be afraid to display titles with the same sex. Another idea was to celebrate Pride Month in June. Take time to go out to your communities and invite LGBT groups to use your space. Also try redesigning your website and catalogs to include transgender issues and policies. Having safe restrooms available would be ideal for them. It was also suggested to have someone who is LGBT on your staff or form a committee so you know what to offer this population.

This outstanding panel had both the skill and knowledge needed to answer questions and enlighten the session that was very well attended. Below are a few helpful websites.

Family Acceptance Project: [http://familyproject.sfsu.edu](http://familyproject.sfsu.edu)

Documents the impact of family acceptance and rejection on the health, mental health and well-being of LGBT youth

Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund: [www.transgenderlegal.org](http://www.transgenderlegal.org)

Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network: [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

Free downloads and tools for librarians

Reported by Lorrie Goings, CLASS chair. 

2016 was a great year for the Passport to CT Libraries program! We far surpassed 2014’s participation, both for patrons and libraries. While the Public Libraries Section’s purpose for this program is to demonstrate the value of a CT library card, the original hopes were for our loyal library lovers to expand their library experiences, and for the participating libraries to have an increased awareness of their services.

In the event that some of you may have missed what the Passport program was, all the public libraries in CT were invited through CLA and Conntech to participate in a month-long program. For a $10 entry fee, each library was provided with a template for printing the “passport,” a list of all participating libraries, a template for a press release, how-to instructions, and (most importantly!) their patrons became eligible for the random drawing prizes.

The last Passport program ran during the month of September to coincide with Library Card Signup Month, but for 2016, the section decided to go with April. Most schools have vacation during April that would enable more children to participate and it does contain National Library Week.

Patrons obtained a passport at any participating library and had the month to visit at least 5, obtain each library’s stamp on the passport, and receive a token gift of that library’s choosing. At the end of the month, those patrons who had managed to get five submitted them to their libraries.

Four prizes were available: One each for the child and adult who visited the most libraries; and one each for both a child and adult that was entirely random. Each library submitted their two top travelers and the two random drawings. The two adult prizes were MasterCard gift cards in the amount of $150, and the two children’s prizes were MasterCard gift cards in the amount of $100.

Over 75% of all the public libraries in CT participated this year (as opposed to 56% in 2014.) While almost all of them reported that they did not have as many passports returned as they had hoped, it was universal that they all had many visitors. In addition, those visitors reported discovering exactly what we had hoped: Every library is unique and that being able to use any library is a huge benefit to living in this state.

We also anticipated that there would be only one child and adult that visited many libraries. We actually had 3 children who visited every single participating library and 4 adults! So, even the most visited ended up being a random drawing from that pool.

Virtually every library kept statistics this year, so we know that roughly 3608 passports were given out and a total of 8151 visits were recorded. Pretty astounding for just one month! Our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/passporttoctlibraries) also had pretty astonishing activity, with 894 likes and 738 people logging in to view the pictures and commentary.

So, now to what you really want to know - the drawing was held on June 1st and the winners are:

**Most libraries visited by an adult:**
Bob McDougall from Portland Public Library

**Most libraries visited by a child:**
Gray Storlazzi from Blackstone Library

**Random drawing adult:**
Angela Moffat from Beacon Falls Public Library

**Random drawing child:**
Grace Rubera from Richmond Memorial Library

Thank you to the members of the Public Libraries Section for all your work on this. Most of all, thank you so much to all the librarians at all the participating libraries for making this program work – without your enthusiasm and organization, CT residents would not have had so much fun discovering how wonderful you all are!•
People in the News

With a heavy heart we at the Connecticut State Library bid farewell to a beloved staff member, Susan Cormier, whose imprint on children’s services in the state will last for generations. Her dedication and spirit has lifted the State Library through the most difficult times and helped it flourish in the best of times. We wish her a much deserved, happy retirement, spending time with her daughter, her chickens and her bees.

At the annual CT Library Consortium meeting on June 9th, Sally Tornow of the New Milford Public Library was awarded the Jan Gluz Cooperative Spirit Award for her work on the Passport to CT Libraries program. Congratulations!

Durham Public Library welcomes Alexandra Klaus as our new children’s librarian. Alex comes to us from her latest post as children’s library assistant at the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill. She also previously worked at Old Lyme PGN Library, and Guilford Smith Library in South Windham.

Geri Diorio is the new assistant director for the Stratford Library. Diorio, a resident of Stratford, fills the position previously held by Sheri Szymanski who was appointed the Library’s new director last February.

At the Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, Andy Northrup has been hired as the adult services/adult programming librarian and Kirsten Smith has been hired as the teen services librarian.

Sandra Hernandez is the new senior librarian in charge of circulation and technical services at the Cheshire Public Library.

There’s lots to report from the New Canaan Library: RoseMarie Zaharek has retired after 16 years as children’s department manager. Reference librarian Alexa Roy has relocated to the west coast. Cheryl Capitani was promoted to manager of services to families, children and teens, and Lauren Howard was promoted to assistant manager of adult services.

The Cheshire Public Library children’s department is the recipient of this year’s Youth Development Award from the Cheshire Community YMCA.

Melissa Ceraso recently accepted the position of science and technology editor at the American Library Association’s Choice magazine in Middletown, CT.

At Russell Library in Middletown, Brandie Doyle was promoted from circulation services department head to assistant director, and Cathy Ahern was promoted from assistant head of information services to information services department head.

Selma Daufefendic has joined the Wethersfield Public Library as a public services manager. Selma has worked for the East Hartford Public Library since 2008, where she held the positions of assistant librarian and reference librarian. Before that, she worked for the Hartford Magnet Middle School as a library paraprofessional and the High School Center in Bosnia as a library media specialist.

Martha Simpson, head of children’s services at the Stratford Library will be presenting a program on her book, The Dreidel That Wouldn’t Spin: A Toyshop Tale of Hanukkah, as part of the Local Authors Festival at the Avon Free Public Library on July 15.

The Trinity College Information Services is delighted to announce the addition of Joelle Thomas as its user engagement librarian. Joelle most re-
People in the News

recently worked as the user experience librarian at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. Before coming to Connecticut, Joelle started her library career at Kent State University as an associate librarian. She has published and presented extensively on e-books, ethnographic research, and using web analytics.

Avon Free Public Library recently hired two new part-time (20 hours per week) reference librarians: Cyndi Larsen and Barbara Greenleaf.

Meghan Morin, formerly of Wolcott Library, has joined New Milford Public Library as the new young adult librarian.

Jess Franco has joined the staff of Groton Public Library as young adult librarian.

The Old Lyme-PGN Library welcomes Jane Frankel as the new young adult librarian, and Julie Bartley as the new children’s librarian.

At the Chester Library, director Linda Fox will be retiring mid-summer. Her creative spirit and friendly and-do attitude have helped keep the library up to date, busy and welcoming to all. A very enthusiastic welcome to Stephanie Romano, who will be leaving the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library in Old Lyme to officially join our Chester staff on July 6th.

Anne Calvert is retiring as assistant director of Portland Library as of June 30th. Anne has been at Portland for 18 years in charge of information services including technology and adult services support. She was formerly Director of Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, where she saw to a major building renovation.

New CLA President

Outgoing CLA president Beth Crowley (l) passes the gavel to incoming president Karen Jensen, director of the James Blackstone Memorial Library.

News from Around the State

Otis Library in Norwich was one of only ten libraries and museums in the country to receive the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Read an article in the Norwich Bulletin.

Read a great article in the Hartford Courant about a challenge to residents from Simsbury Public Library director Lisa Karim to explore their town this summer.

At the Scranton Library in Madison, Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative Noreen Kokoruda announced the State Bond Commission has approved $1 million dollars in state aid for the renovation and expansion of the library.

From Christine Schulz, director at Janet Carlson Calvert Library: The Connecticut Authors Trail celebrates its 8th year in 2016. July 7th marks the kickoff in Franklin. The trail consists of a consortium of libraries that host author events in the summer. Denise Bachand, former director of Preston Public Library and currently working at Janet Carlson Calvert Library in Franklin, volunteers to put together the passport and poster each year. Well done!
Thank you to everyone who came out to attend the 125th Annual CLA Conference at the beautiful CT Convention Center in Hartford. This year’s conference was all about celebrating and honoring our collective past achievements and looking toward the future of library service. We hope you came away from the conference with a sense of community and fellowship, a renewed vigor and fresh ideas, and most of all, a sense of pride for the fantastic work we do every day. CLA is all about working together to achieve our common goals, and the conference is no exception. We would like to thank the following people for their hard work to pull off another great CLA experience:

- The CLA section and committee chairs, who planned and managed so many excellent breakout programs;
- The presenters and keynote speakers, who shared their many experiences and knowledge with all of us;
- Jennifer Keohane, Lisa Mann, Rachel Gaither, and the entire staff of CLC, who helped immensely with registration and exhibitor support;
- All of the exhibitors (80 this year!) and sponsors (11 this year!), who help make this conference possible;
- Exhibits Chair Brandie Doyle, who helped secure so many fantastic vendors for you to meet and talk with;
- Kara Gilbert and Kym Powe, who organized and planned the happy hour murder mystery event;
- Kirk Morrison and Matt Yanarella, who organized the after-hours event, Pints ‘n’ Pages;
- Richard Conroy and Jen Datum, who helped staff the CLA member table during the conference;
- And again to Jen Datum for also documenting the conference and assisting with online registration and setup;
- Carl Antonucci and Mary Etter, for hosting the legislators thank you reception, and CLA lobbyist Kate Robinson, for coordinating invitations with the Capitol;
- Kristina Edwards and Sara Martone, for help with conference planning and event setup, and for taking on the role of 2017 conference co-chairs;
- All of the volunteers who staffed the registration desk with enthusiasm and grace;
- Beth Crowley, 2016 CLA President, who provided support and guidance throughout the conference planning process;
- Karen Jensen, CLA vice president, who also took on treasurer duties;
- The library directors, boards, and friends groups who provide encouragement and support for their staff to attend the conference;
- And to the dedicated co-workers who covered desks and programs so that others could attend. We hope to see you at next year’s conference!

Tom Piezzo & Katy Dillman
2016 CLA Conference co-chairs