The 127th Annual Conference was held on April 23 & 24 at the Danbury Crowne Plaza. Keynote speakers were writer and comedian Sarah Cooper on Monday and ALA President Jim Neal on Tuesday. Many thanks to conference co-chairs Alessandra Petrino and Kirk Morrion, and exhibits co-chair Kym Powe and Katy Dillman.

CLA Vice-President Kate Byroade shows off her ribbons.
Welcome to the conference review issue of CLA Today. Many thanks to our reporters.

Both Sides Now
Perceptions of Libraries & Friends Groups

Friends of Connecticut Libraries shared results of surveys on how library directors and their Friends groups get along and found most have a great relationship. Carl Nawrocki, a Friends board member who conducted the surveys, said he was amazed that directors rated advocacy as high as fundraising. "Any time you meet with Friends, always ask for advocacy," said Kate Byroade, then CLA vice president and director of the Cragin Library in Colchester. Library directors should attend their local Friends meeting or send a staff member. The survey also found that when a Friends group is active, a library tends to be well staffed with stable funding. Friends should also be encouraged to occasionally invite the first selectman to a Friends meeting. To support their Friends, directors provide administrative support, promote their Friends in library publicity, recognize Friends' support and share new fundraising ideas. "That's probably one of the areas we should be sharing more with our Friends," Byroade said. "This speaks to that big problem in any organization—communication."

Reporter: Marge Ruschau

Transitioning from Public to Academic Librarianship featured a discussion by a panel of librarians. Although they are all currently employed by academic libraries, each of them has worked previously in a public library. They related their stories of how they had made the transition from one type of library to the other – dispelling common misconceptions along the way.

Reporter: Richard Conroy

Drinking from A Firehose

What Every First-Time Manager Needs To Know To Survive the First Year was also held in a panel discussion format. Librarians and middle-managers shared their personal stories, both good and bad, about their experiences when they first rose from "worker bee" to manager. First-time supervisory positions generally don’t come with an instruction manual for how to handle their new jobs. The panelists offered many helpful hints for dealing with new responsibilities, including the importance of taking care of one’s own mental health while learning on the job.

Reporter: Richard Conroy

CSL’s IT Services

Fair, Equitable and in Demand
The State Library’s Division of Library Development came to give an update on their various IT services. Eric Hansen brought us up to date on researchIT CT and new eGo, the statewide e-Book platform currently
Message from the President

On May 8, hundreds of librarians and library supporters from around the country spread out across Capitol Hill, meeting with members of congress to discuss the many benefits of libraries. Connecticut was well represented at this year’s National Library Legislative Day, with a delegation including State Librarian Ken Wiggin, incoming CLA President Kate Byroade, CLA’s legislative committee co-chairs Carl Antonucci and Mary Etter, CLA region 5 representative Chris Hemingway, Connecticut library patron and American Library Association employee Evelyn Elam, and me.

This formidable group was able to meet directly with Rep. Joe Courtney (D, 2nd District) and Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D, 5th District), in addition to legislative aides for the remainder of Connecticut’s members of congress. As you might expect, lobbying for libraries isn’t particularly difficult or controversial. Like sunshine and puppies, almost everyone has a soft spot for libraries, and we found a very receptive audience in the offices of Connecticut’s legislators.

Following a day long briefing from ALA’s Washington Office on Monday, we were prepared with three main asks: reauthorize and fully fund the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) along with continued federal support of broadband access through programs like E-rate. Connecticut receives about $2 million in federal library aid annually through IMLS and more libraries have been applying for E-rate discounts on internet access since CEN discontinued providing free internet access to libraries two years ago. We also took the opportunity, as all good librarians do, to share some inspiring stories from our local libraries with our representatives and their aides to show the actual impact of these programs on people in Connecticut.

This is the second year I have participated in National Library Legislative Day and it was a great way to wind down my term as president. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to represent Connecticut libraries, librarians and library workers for the past year. I am confident that under Kate’s leadership and with the help of the CLA Board and the library community at large, CLA will continue to advance the role of libraries to help all of you provide essential information services to your patrons next year and into the future.

Glenn Grube is the director of the Avon Free Public Library.

Annual Awards Ceremony

Edith B. Nettleton Award
Jody Katz, Volunteer, Groton Public Library

Excellence in Public Library Service
population greater than 15,000
Simsbury Public Library

population less than 15,000
Beacon Falls Public Library

CLA Support Staff Award
Christy Billings, Russell Library, Middletown

CLA Supporter of Support Staff
Christine Angeli, Milford Public Library

Faith Hektoen Award
Nancy Brewer, Ledyard Public Library

CLA Special Achievement Award
Molly Virello, Southington Public Library
Ken Wiggin, State Librarian of Connecticut

Outstanding Librarian
Blanche Parker, Darien Public Library

News Media
Jill Dion, The Milford Mirror
2018 CLA Publicity Awards

Print Media – Newsletter, In House
Farmington Libraries
Designer: Anna Boisvert

Print Media – Program Flyer, In House
East Hartford Public Library
Designer: Rebecca Livaich
Honorable Mention:
Darien Library
Designer: Mia Orobona
Public Library of New London
Designer: Juanita Ausfin

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

Print Media – Library Logo, In House
East Hartford Public Library
Designer: Rebecca Livaich

Print Media – Annual Report, In House
Ferguson Library, Stamford
Designers: Linda Avellar and Barbara Aronica

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, In House
North Haven Memorial Library
Designer: Susan Griffiths

Electronic Media – Website/Blog, Professional
Mark Twain Library, Redding
Designers: Fredi Bremond (Fredi B. Design), Natalie Jorgenson

Electronic Media – Video, Professional
Hartford Public Library
Designer: Derek Dudek (Content Pictures)

Electronic Media – E-Newsletter
Greenwich Library
Designers: Cathleen Blood, Nancy Natale, Lily Stevenson, Kate Petrov

Electronic Media – Social Media
Darien Library
Designers: Amanda L. Goodman and Jennifer Dayton

Electronic Media – Thematic Project, In House
Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry
Designer: Meg Schiebel

Electronic Media – Thematic Project, Professional
Darien Library
Designers: Lisa Nowlain and Amanda L. Goodman
Scholarship Winners

Jenna Anthony, James Blackstone Library, Branford
MLIS student at San Jose State University

Scott Brill, Huntington Branch Library, Shelton
MLIS student at UNC Greensboro

Heather Delouchry, Flanders School, East Lyme
ACES Alternative Route to Certification Program

Danielle Valenzano, Milford Public Library
MLIS student at Valdosta State University

Noelle Zboray, Trumbull Public Library
MLIS student at Valdosta State University

Fairfield County Library Administrators Group (FLAG)
2018 Scholarship Winners:
Jenna Anthony, James Blackstone Memorial Library
Myla Perelli, Easton Public Library & Wallingford Library

Christy Billings (l) welcomes author Craig Grossi and his canine companion, Fred, before their presentation.

CLC staff members Christine Sarrazin (l) and Alena Principato are in the construction zone.
Annual Meeting Highlights

President’s Report, Glenn Grube
Glenn gave an overview of the year, which started unsettled without a state budget. CLA’s lobbyists and legislative committee were instrumental in advocating for the vital role that libraries of all types play in the state. All that advocacy paid off, and the legislature restored many of the cuts in Gov. Malloy’s original budget. CLA also advocated on behalf of several local libraries facing major funding cuts, and helped the American Library Association rally state support for national issues like net neutrality and IMLS funding for LSTA and IAL programs. Glenn thanked all of the committees and sections for their hard work, and also offered huge thanks the conference committee. Lastly, Glenn thanked the CLA executive committee and the CLC staff for their support. He acknowledged the support of members, noted that our income is derived from membership and conference and program attendance, and encouraged non-members to join CLA!

The minutes from the 125th annual meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report, Scott Brill
Scott reviewed the financials, current through March 31, 2018, which do not reflect the anticipated income from the annual conference. The finance and budget committees have been preparing the CLA budget to present a balanced and fiscally sound budget. The executive board members have been reviewing and revising CLA’s financial plan. Scott stated that his term ends June 2018 and he will work to ensure a smooth transition for the new treasurer. Scott thanked Glenn, the board and CLC for their continuing support.

Bylaws Revision, Chris Angeli, Procedures Chair
Chris explained that the editorial committee and publicity committee have put forth a proposal to combine. CLA members will receive an electronic ballot to vote on the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Presentation of Candidates for CLA Office
Karen Jensen, CLA Past President/Nominations Chair
Karen announced that members will receive an electronic ballot to vote and thanked everyone who was nominated.

The nominees are as follows:

Vice President/President Elect
Lisa Karim, Simsbury Public Library

Treasurer
Kristina Edwards, Central Connecticut State University

ALA Representative
Erin Shea, Ferguson Library, Stamford

Region 2 Representative
Susan Ray, Simsbury Public Library

Region 3 Representative
Amanda Brouwer, Douglas Library of Hebron

Region 6 Representative
Gale Bradbury, Ledyard Public Libraries
in development. researchIT CT is the former iConn.org, rebranded. Using researchIT CT, patrons can access RBDigital, which started as e-audio content for the K-12 schools. Over time broader content has been added and it currently has e-audio and e-books for all ages. Eric demonstrated how to create an account with RBDigital and the use of the SimplyE app that will be used with eGo. Testing has been continuing on the new statewide e-book platform eGo. Currently, the service is being tested with 33 libraries from LION, LCI, and Biblionation. More libraries will be added in the near future, with a go-live date soon. eGo harvests content from existing library e-platforms such as Overdrive.

Carl DeMilia and Steve Cauffman gave updates on findIT CT and requestIT CT. Currently Biblionation staff manually upload catalog data to findIT. Work is being done on a process to automate this, keeping findIT up to date. Updates are presently being done annually, one is due this summer. Steve worked with libraries participating in requestIT to come up with a list of enhancements that are needed for requestIT. The prioritized list of 13 was given to Equinox to work on, the first enhancements should be coming over the summer.

Dawn LaValle spoke about DeliverIT CT. Routes have stabilized, but as needed routes will change to become more efficient. Staffing is stable for now. Dawn pointed out that states around us are now falling victim to interstate delivery issues. New Jersey had a vendor issue causing a major backlog of items. Massachusetts has had to eliminate over 100 stops citing minimum wage and health cost increases that exceeded their funding.

Reporter: Kimberly Farrington

Making a (Privacy) Statement:
NYPL’s Path to a New Privacy Policy

Bill Marden, Director of Privacy and Compliance at the New York Public Library, gave an informative talk about NYPL’s road to a new and updated privacy policy statement. In his talk he distinguished between privacy: an individual’s right to control the collection and disclosure of personal information and confidentiality: the obligation of an individual, organization or business to protect personal information and not misuse or wrongfully disclose that information. Marden outlined a hierarchy of control governing the new privacy policy: policy (general management statements), standards (specific mandatory controls), guidelines (recommendations/best practices) and procedures (step-by-step instructions). NYPL looked at industry standards and best practices, library-related and other organizations focused on privacy.

The creation process itself included:
• a data inventory
  * types of data – digital and analog
  * how it was collected
  * where it is stored
  * access
  * transmission, 3rd party access
  * retention
  * disposal
• discussion with working groups
• creation of 5 principles (inspired by ALA’s 5 standard privacy principles)
  * notice
  * access
  * choice
  * security
  * enforcement
• a core working team
• constant iterations and revisions and review by and input from all divisions

In all, a wildly informative presentation and great information on how to create comprehensive policies.

Reporter: Sam Lee

(1-4) CLA’s rep to ALA Carl Antonucci, ALA President Jim Neal, CT State Librarian Ken Wiggin and CLA President Glenn Grube.
Living a long, healthy life is about making sound choices and Ms. Salem’s presentation offered helpful advice.

**GET ENOUGH SLEEP!**—Less sleep affects your ability to function and to make good decisions.

**EAT BREAKFAST**—This should be your biggest meal of the day so your body can use the energy instead of storing it.

**KEEP YOUR BODY HYDRATED**—Water is vital to the body and is needed for optimal brain and lung function. Most people do not take in enough water on a daily basis.

**PREVENT DIPS IN BLOOD SUGAR**—eat every four to five hours.

**CALORIES COUNT**—Record what you eat. This is a proven method to helping you realize how your food choices and the amount of food you consume are key to adding to or shortening your lifespan.

**AVOID EXCESS WEIGHT**—Small weight lose can make a big difference in how you feel.

**LIMIT SALT INTAKE**—While your body needs sodium, processed foods are loaded with large quantities of salt and should be avoided.

So, what to do?

- Assess your current habits.
- Keep a well-stocked kitchen.
- Plan ahead—have healthy foods on hand, especially rich colored fruits and vegetables.
- **STAY ACTIVE!**

*Reporter: Karen Carey*

**Build Better Data**

*Best Practices for Catalog Cleanup*

Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, once wrote, “Data is a precious thing and will last longer than the systems themselves.” Librarians and patrons rely on accurate, robust data within our catalogs in order to document and locate resources. Maintaining relevant data is an on-going challenge for librarians. Legacy data migrated from former catalogs, batch imported records from vendors, copy cataloging, and human error are some of the situations where obsolete, faulty, corrupted, or missing data may occur.

In *Build Better Data: Best Practices for Catalog Cleanup*, Diane Napert, interim director of monographic processing services at Yale University, and Cindy Schofield, head of the technical services division at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), shared their experiences in working with catalog data. Both Yale and SCSU recently migrated their catalog data to new systems. Although data maintenance is always on-going, the migration provided an excellent opportunity to focus on specific data review and cleanup. For this project, it was important to determine what data needed to be fixed prior to migration, and what could wait until post-migration. Also covered in this informative session: software suggestions (some are open source) for manipulating data, helpful data reports for MARC records, tips on what data to target, and some general considerations when undertaking a data cleanup project.

*Reporter: Dana Hanford*

**Dewey Unclassified: The Inside Story**

Michele Zwierski spoke about how the popular Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system is maintained and published. She is head of cataloging for the 54-member Nassau Library System in New York State, and vice-chair of the Dewey editorial policy committee, which meets virtually through the year to discuss proposed changes in call numbers, and annually in person to vote on changes.

First developed in 1873, the DDC is now owned and operated by OCLC. The final print editions were the 23rd and the 15th Abridged (2011). It is now published online only, at [http://dewey.org/webdewey](http://dewey.org/webdewey). This is a subscription service, but pricing is not exorbitant. It includes a “machine” to build numbers based on subject headings.
Zwierski recommended reading the updated Introduction to the DDC (https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/oclc/dewey/versions/print/intro.pdf) for insight into the system. Another free resource is the Dewey Blog (http://ddc.typepad.com/), which reports on updates to the DDC and can be searched for tips on a given subject area. Contact links are posted there for sending questions to Dewey editors. Finally, there is “Classify” at http://classify.oclc.org, a free, “experimental” service. You can search it by standard numbers or title/author, to see the number assigned by most libraries that hold the item. (New publications appear in the system after a few months’ lag time.)

Zwierski commented on “ditching Dewey,” which is not a new idea, though often presented as such. In her experience, when libraries discard Dewey but still want to shelve by subject in a granular way, the end result looks much the same.

Reporter: Jonathan Wiener

YA Smackdown

Mary Richardson challenged attendees to think on their feet in a roundtable-like session. Participants blindly picked a question related to topics such as readers advisory and programming. After the question was answered by the participant who chose it, the whole room also answered. We discussed favorite prizes for a contest or program, such as a themed bag of books, free pizza coupons, bluetooth speaker, design your own shoe, limo rides for the first day of school, and a mystery box of stuff with no take backs were among the suggestions. Popular graphic novels, adult books for teens, favorite media platforms (Instagram was in favor), and favorite school partnerships were also discussed. Partnership ideas that stood out in addition to summer reading included booktalks, robotics demo and maker programs, art exhibits, promoting Mango to language teachers, computer tutoring with local high school students, library open late for finals, and Book Bowl (a Nutmeg book trivia event).

Reporter: Sara Ray

Children’s Section Programs

ABC: The Building Blocks for a Successful Children’s Library Art Program
Sara Taussik began by explaining just how important art can be to a child’s development. Besides giving children a chance to be creative, through art, children can learn and develop their fine motor, problem solving, decision making, and math skills. She then went on to give some practical ideas on how a non-artist could implement a successful art program in a library setting. Sara closed her talk by giving attendees a chance have fun making tin art using tinfoil and sharpie markers.

Creating a Sensory-Friendly Space
Certified music therapist Jona Jeffcoat gave a lively presentation, filled with lots of important background information and practical considerations for making both library spaces and library programs more welcoming for anyone with physical, cognitive, and/or emotional limitations. Throughout her talk, Jona gave attendees a chance to participate in a drum circle and try out a variety of percussion instruments as a way to show how we can all connect through music, regardless of our abilities.

The Whole Book Approach
Megan Dowd Lambert gave fascinating insight into how to use every part of a picture book with children. Instead of just reading the story straight through, she explained how to look at and talk about the book’s endpapers, jacket, trim size, format, and composition.

Supercharge Your Storytimes!
Supercharge Your Storytimes gave a brief, (hopefully) inspiring overview on how to reinvigorate storytimes and enrich them with elements that support early literacy. Presenters Allison Murphy, Elise Barlow, and Kari Hamad discussed how to think more intentionally about the storytimes you are already doing, gave advice on

CONTINUED ON P. 11
how to share early literacy tips with parents, and provided resources for how to learn more.

**Reporter: Kari Hamad**

### A ‘New’ Perspective: New Adult Books

During the presentation on New Adult books, Jennifer Rummel gave a brief history of New Adult literature and several past, current, and upcoming examples of these types of books. Caitlin Augusta discussed New Adult books from a reader’s advisory point of view, giving multiple examples of appeal factors and mood based terms best used to describe New Adult books. Amanda Brouwer recently conducted a survey on New Adult books in libraries, public and school, across Connecticut and shared her results which indicated that libraries seem to be open to New Adult books and are treating them as a genre. Finally, Pamela Gegnon, a high school librarian, stated that New Adult books can be problematic because of the broad genre and explicit sex; however, there are many books in the category that discuss it in short, subtle ways. She claims there are 3 considerations for purchasing them in a school setting, including having a solid acquisition policy, starting small, and knowing what you are recommending and where you are placing it.

**Reporter: Brittany Pearson**

### Building a Foundation: Connecting Seniors and Youth in Westbrook

With a large population of residents older than 50, both presenters related that they feel it’s important to connect youth and seniors. For the seniors, it helps them feel young at heart and part of the community. For the teens, it makes them feel part of the community and fulfills volunteer hours. For both groups, they get to show off their talents and skills. The programs talked about look amazing: including “glam your grannies,” a make-over session before portraits for Mother’s Day, technology training, holiday cards for the homebound in their community, inviting your grandparents for dinner, and baking and decorating holiday cookies for a special program. Both the teens and the seniors love and everyone keeps looking forward to more programs together.

**Reporter: Jennifer Rummel**

### Mindfulness in the Workplace

The presentation from Meredith Yuhas was packed with useful information on how to relax, or become mindful, in the workplace. She broke down the presentation between eight different exercises, including breathing in and out through the nose 7 times, and being mindful of each breath. She spoke about the history, evolution and benefits of mindfulness. She also spoke about stress triggers and how to bring yourself back to the present moment. The present moment was suggested as a place to come back to. So, if your mind wanders to the future or thinks about things you could have done better in the past, have your mind float those ideas away and come back to the present moment. All in all, a great presentation and one that most of us will be using in our jobs at libraries in the future.

**Reporter: Maura Beaudrault**

### Passionate about Podcasts

Graham Stinnet, archivist at the University of Connecticut, began by giving us an overview of his podcast, d’Archive, and a sampling from his first year of episodes. Kate Walsh’s podcast about fandom called “The Fourth Wall,” which she co-hosts, was featured next. Lastly, Amanda Gilbertie of Danbury Public Library gave us an overview of their recording space, Studio 170. Danbury will also be opening a video recording space soon. There was time for Q & A.

**Author Nancy Tafuri signs books in the exhibit hall.**
People in the News

The CT Library Consortium (CLC) welcomes Julie Yulo-Medeiros as the new Member Relations Manager. With a background as a school librarian, she will be working with school and academic libraries.

Ramona Burkey is the new director and chief executive officer at Russell Library in Middletown. She was previously director at the Cheshire Public Library.

After working 18 years as senior assistant librarian at Ledyard Libraries, Marty Hubbard will be retiring.

Andrew Tingley has been hired as the new IT person at Killingly Public Library. He is currently a student at QVCC and a Danielson resident. He replaced Kayla Fontaine who has taken a full-time position at the Booth and Dimock Library in Coventry.

Granby Library director of library services, Kelly Marszycki, will be retiring on August 24.

Joshua Ritter has resigned as the education manager & library director for Goodspeed Musicals in East Haddam. Josh had worked for Goodspeed for more than nine years and was the director of the Scherer Library of Musical Theatre, the only library in the world dedicated solely to musical theatre. Josh accepted a faculty appointment at University of North Carolina Greensboro teaching in the Theatre Department and managing their theatres.

At CCSU, Susan Slaga-Metivier was promoted to full librarian, and Martha Kruy received tenure this past academic year (to take effect in the 2018-2019 academic year). Martha will also be co-chair (effective July 1, 2018) of the New England Library Instruction Group.

At the Somers Public Library, after 32 years, Yvonne Besse retired. Frances Clark became the new circulation supervisor. Allison Rief also joined the staff as a full-time interlibrary loan/circulation assistant.

Richard Kokoska will be retiring on August 1st after MANY years of state service at both UCONN libraries and Eastern CT State University J. Eugene Smith Library. He worked at UCONN from 1981-1989, and has been at ECSU since 1990. He will leave a large hole in the Smith Library’s technical services department, where he worked in acquisitions, cataloging, and book repair for the past 28 years.

Janice Wilson, interim director of library services, has been selected to serve in the permanent position of director of library services at the J. Eugene Smith Library at Eastern CT State University. She has been at the Smith Library for 14 years, serving students in the reference, instruction, and government documents areas, including the role of head of public and research services, before taking on the interim director job over a year ago.

Library assistant Barbara Fitchen is retiring from the Easton Public Library after 39 years of service. Barbara has worked in cataloging and technical services since starting with the library in 1979.

Joyce Aguirre and Lizbeth Perez have been appointed to new positions at the Stratford Library. Aguirre is the Library’s new full-time circulation department assistant and Perez has been promoted to digital literacy associate in the adult services department.

Warren Public Library has announced its longtime director, Martha Winkel, will retire effective June 30.

After 24 years of wonderful service at the Tolland Public Library, Ginny Brousseau, the children’s/young adult librarian is retiring.

The Simsbury Public Library is excited to welcome, Rachel Gravel as their new head of borrowing & technical services. Rachel recently worked at Wheelock College in Boston as the access librarian and collections & content resources librarian and has been the technical services librarian at Marlboro College In VT.
Around the State

Close to 50 library professionals from around the state gathered at the Wadsworth Atheneum on June 5 for a tour and overview of services. Amy Kilkenny, head of the library and archives, welcomed the group in the reference library, which contains over 500,000 items, focusing primarily on the fine arts. Anyone can use the library when it is open.

Susan Carey, visitor services manager, spoke about the “Library Art Pass Program,” where 2 complimentary passes are mailed to every town in CT via the library. They are mailed to the library director in the first week of December—there is no need to renew.

Lastly, participants were treated to a tour of the new exhibit, Frederic Church: A Painter’s Pilgrimage, led by the curator of the exhibit, Erin Monroe.

Overall, the Wadsworth wants librarians (and visitors) to know that they are kid and family friendly, parking in Hartford is not that bad, and a lot of great things are happening downtown.

And after all, as Carey said, “We have the biggest and best camel!” Visit the Wadsworth to find out more! ♦

New CLA President

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

Outgoing CLA president Glenn Grube (l) passes the gavel to incoming president Kate Byroade (r), director of the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester.
The Ensworth Charitable Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of $15,000 to Hartford Public Library in support of its Lifelong Learning for Older Adults program. All classes are free and open to the public and specifically target the Hartford community over the age of 55. Lifelong Learning for Older Adults: Classes in the Arts at Hartford Public Library engages participants in creative expression, developing artistic and critical thinking skills, and helps them discover their potential and productivity as they age.

The Stocker Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of $25,500 to Hartford Public Library in support of its 2018 innovative summer learning program. This grant will allow the Library to offer enhanced summer learning opportunities for Hartford students entering grades 1-3 who need extra support in reading. Funds will purchase books to be kept at home, provide for four family literacy nights throughout the months of July and August, and a two-week, half day Reading Camp at select branch locations in August. These interventions will help stem summer reading loss and create a culture of reading and literacy in each family that participates.

On Thursday, April 26, bestselling author Claudia Rankine led a discussion of her prize-winning book Citizen: An American Lyric, as she addressed the crowd celebrating this year’s Big Read at the Hartford Public Library.

The Cora J. Belden Library and the Rocky Hill High School Library sponsored a summer reading kick off activity of a “StickTogether” project.
Conference Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who attended the 2018 CLA Annual Conference at Crowne Plaza of Danbury. Our goal was to provide an array of different speakers, presenters and programs for all to enjoy and hopefully leave you with many ideas and implementations you could put to use at your own libraries. We thank our attendees, their directors, the library boards and friend groups and fellow staff members for making it possible to have so many people attend during the workweek.

Putting together a state-wide conference takes more than just a few people. Along with our attendees we would like to take the time to thank some very important people, whom without them, this year’s annual conference would not have been a success. Huge thanks to:

- This year’s exhibitors and vendors as they really help bring us all together and attend to our needs at each of our particular libraries.
- Our wonderful sponsors who provided us with monetary contributions, raffle giveaways, speaker fees and more.
- Conference presenters and speakers for bringing us your ideas and being willing to share them. Libraries truly are all about community and learning from one another. One of our hardest tasks is to choose from all of the amazing proposals for programs, and even if your proposal was not selected for this year’s conference, thank you for your willingness to share your expertise.
- The CLA sections and committees who sponsor these programs, thank you for assisting your presenters and coordinating with us throughout the months to ensure each program could be a success.
- Our wonderful volunteers who showed up each morning of the conference ready to assist in any way needed.
- Jennifer Keohane, Trish Palmer, Alana Principato and the entire crew of CLC that was essential in so many ways from registration and payments to sponsorship, coordinating our after-hours Tech Petting Zoo and being our sounding board again and again throughout this entire year.
- Jen Datum, the StarChapter guru, badge connoisseur, and conference photographer for walking us through every step of registration and e-mail marketing.
- Incoming conference co-chairs, Amanda Brower and Jennifer Rummel for your complete assistance from registration to coordinating our volunteers, but especially for trusting that we would not steer you wrong in your conference journey.
- Katy McNicol and Kymberlee Powe for working with our exhibitors and vendors, as well as working with CLC for our Tech Petting Zoo and for all of your CLA Conference knowledge from past experience.
- CLA executive board members Scott Brill, Kate Byroade, Karen Jensen and Catherine Potter for their constant support and communication and filling in wherever needed from the registration desk to tech assistance and more.
- CLA President Glenn Grube for being the best leader for this committee we could have ever asked for. Thank you for your relentless assistance every step of the way, responding to every e-mail, thinking ahead and always being prepared with extra tech supplies, for believing in every choice we made, and for giving us this opportunity.
- Finally, we would both like to thank our own respected libraries, New Haven Free Public Library Fair Haven Branch and Weston Public Library, for supporting us on this endeavor and allowing us to take so much time from our normal workdays to make this conference possible.

Thank you all for your support and attendance. We truly hope the 2018 CLA Annual Conference was enjoyable and can now be used to make a difference at your libraries. Thank you for this opportunity and we hope to see you next year (we are leaving you in the absolute most capable hands with your new conference committee)!

Kirk Morrison & Alessandra Petrino
2018 CLA Annual Conference Co-Chairs