The 128th annual conference was held on April 29 & 30 at the Mystic Marriott. Keynote speakers were a panel of romance writers on Monday and author Vashti Harrison on Tuesday. Many thanks to conference co-chairs Amanda Brouwer and Jennifer Rummel, and exhibits co-chairs Kym Powe and Alessandra Petrino.

Conference by the Numbers

100+ speakers from the CT library community and beyond!

475 registered attendees over 2 days

62 programs and sessions over 2 days

4 romance authors on the Tuesday keynote panel

7 amazing award winners

74 exhibitors

6 scholarships given

Conference co-chairs Amanda Brouwer (l) and Jennifer Rummel (r) with keynote speaker Vashti Harrison (c)
Welcome to the conference review issue of CLA Today. Many thanks to our reporters.

All Things Streaming

Sponsor: Technical Services Section

Four librarians discussed aspects of providing streaming services to patrons.

Eric McCarthy recounted Greenwich Library’s experiences with Naxos, Freegal, Hoopla, and Kanopy. Since 2009, Netflix reached 60 million subscribers, Amazon launched Prime Video, and their yearly DVD circulation went from greater than 250,000 to less than 150,000. They have gradually shifted money from physical to streaming. They still have 25,000 CDs but will be cutting back. They strive to represent streaming content in their OPAC.

Kristina Edwards discussed CCSU’s adoption of Kanopy streaming video with a patron-driven acquisition (PDA) model, paying only for films that are used 4 times in 12 months. It’s important to understand you can’t get everything online; some patrons will always want a physical disc; and patrons must be educated about uses that may be off limits, such as public screenings.

Kara Swanson spoke to collection development considerations around streaming services at SCSU (Naxos, Kanopy, and Films on Demand). The downside of PDA is that usage may exceed expectations. Exercise caution in deciding how much of the vendor’s catalog patrons can see. You need a policy covering whose needs come first (faculty, students, community) and which modes of instruction (online, classroom, hybrid).

Jackie Toce discussed metadata for streaming services at SCSU. Streaming content circulates better when included in the OPAC. Vendor records are easy to work with but lack detail; OCLC records are better but more time-consuming. Delete URLs that won’t work for your patrons; try to supply missing language codes, authors, contributors, subjects; correct publisher names, titles; update records to RDA standards.

Reporter: Jonathan Wiener

Career Development Programs

This year the Career Development Committee sponsored two presentations. From Conten- tious to Collaborative: Re- imagining the Employee Per-
Message from the President

It’s been a great honor and privilege to serve as president of the Connecticut Library Association this past year. CLA exists to serve our members with professional development opportunities, networking, and advocacy on behalf of Connecticut’s libraries. In addition to the annual conference, a dozen workshops and one-day conferences were organized and offered to the broad library community. As our state continues to struggle with funding, members built relationships with state legislators, testified on behalf of State Library funding, wrote letters in support of libraries, librarians, and school librarians, and showed up for public meetings. As our state faces losing another house seat, we started to spread the word about the need to be ready for the 2020 Census, to work for a complete count to ensure all of Connecticut’s residents are represented. A new LGBTQ+ section formed and was supported by dozens of members. Within the organization we worked to ensure our professional development opportunities were relevant and profitable. Our new Publicity & Communications Committee created a promotional video and attractive new membership brochure. I couldn’t be prouder of the efforts we have made this past year.

Unfortunately, even as our work moved forward, our financial situation did not. Despite a significant profit from this year’s annual conference, our underlying membership has continued to erode. Profits from the conference were spent on our normal operating costs even as it succeeded. Our financial situation is more serious than ever before. We are fortunate that we have a small amount of invested funds from which we can draw to help keep the association afloat over the next few months. However, without changes in our spending and revenue generation, we will exhaust those funds and face the possible end of the association.

Members of the board and executive committee are coming together to work on a combination of efforts and initiatives to help CLA do more than survive, but to thrive. We are not alone—state associations across the country face similar pressures—and we are learning about possible solutions from our peers.

We do need you as individual members to step up in a variety of ways. First, renew your own membership as promptly as possible—make a note of your expiration date and set a calendar reminder to get your renewal done on time. Second, encourage your employer to support membership for more staff members and encourage more co-workers to join. (First-time members can join for only $25 for the first year!) Third, if CLA membership hasn’t seemed right for you, we need to know why—are you looking for different program content or for more local advocacy support? Reach out to your region representatives or to committee and section chairs with what you and your colleagues need and want or even better, join a section or committee to offer your own time and effort to create the professional development content you are looking for. Connecting with your colleagues—at every level—will strengthen your skills and enrich your life.

Finally, I want to thank you all.

CONTINUED ON P. 5
Annual Awards Ceremony

Edith B. Nettleton Award for Volunteer Service
Carl Nawrocki
Friends of the Salem Free Library

Excellence in Public Library Service <15,000
East Hampton Public Library

Excellence in Public Library Service >15,000
Simsbury Public Library

Support Staff Award
Elizabeth Davis
Hartford Public Library

Faith Hektoen Award, Career Achievement
Mary Proudfoot
Brookfield Library

Special Achievement Award
Betty Anne Reiter
Groton Public Library

Outstanding Librarian
Lydia Main
East Lyme Public Library
2019 CLA Publicity Awards

**PRINT**
**Russell Library, Middletown**
Immigrant Artist Series
Designer: Sue Honer

**West Hartford Libraries**
West Hartford READS! 2018
Designers: Joe Cadieux, Adam Wisnieski, Maura Beaudreault, & Kirsten Kilbourn

**ELECTRONIC**
**East Hampton Library**
Website Redesign
Designer: Stirling Technologies

**Wilton Library**
2018 Human Library Event Video
Designer: Mary Clay Fields

**DESIGNER’S AWARD**
**East Hampton Public Library**
Logo Redesign
Designer: Stirling Technologies

**SMALL LIBRARY AWARD**
**Kent Memorial Library, Kent**
2018 Spring Gala Invitation
Designer: Lucy C. Pierpont

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**OBITUARIES**

Faith Davison, a retired archivist and researcher who helped preserve the Mohegan Tribe’s cultural history, died on May 20. Read more at this link.

Lou Ann Wilson passed away June 7. She became interested in library work during her years as a volunteer library worker in the elementary school system. Then continued a 30-year career as a Librarian at East Lyme Public Library with an accreditation through Mohegan Community College.
Scholarship Winners

Deborah Brooks
Currently employed by the Brookfield Public Library and studying for her MLIS at San Jose State University

Colleen Wood
Currently employed by the Darien Library and studying for her MLIS at the University of Maryland

Kathy Pickle
Currently employed by the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, and studying for her MLIS at Florida State University.

Fairfield County Library Administrators Group (FLAG) 2019 Scholarship Winners:

Timothy Kellogg, Guilford Free Library
Kathy Pickle, Oliver Wolcott Library
Colleen Wood, Darien Library

Taking a break between sessions
(l-r) Jennifer Keohane, Betty Anne Reiter & Ken Wiggin
Annual Meeting Highlights

**President’s Report, Kate Byroade**
Byroade summarized her year as president, including:
- Creation of the Connecticut Cooperative Library Services Group with the message of “effective regionalization for over 40 years.”
- Development of CLA’s legislative agenda and ongoing advocacy
- Emphasizing the critical role of libraries in Census 2020
- Updating CLA’s financial plan
- Efforts of the newly merged publicity and communications committee, including a new brochure and membership video
- Efforts to form a new LGBTQ section
- Attending the NYC premiere of “The Public” with the “CT Four”

**Kendall Wiggin**, retiring state librarian, gave the following remarks (in summary): Wiggin stated that he was encouraged by the new faces and reflected on the diversity in our profession. Over the years, he has brought great news and not so great news. Wiggin commented on the strong partnership between CLA and the State Library and hopes that the organization can afford his successor the same opportunity to develop a trusting relationship. He will continue to be a member of CLA and to advocate for libraries. Wiggin thanked everyone for their support, as the budget struggle is not over yet, since the legislature is still in session, and reminded everyone to continue to talk to their legislators.

The minutes **from the 126th annual meeting** were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report, Kristina Edwards**
Edwards stated that as treasurer she has been trying to make sure the organization is able to make the most of what it has. She commented that the conference committee has been phenomenal in keeping things on track. Edwards is continuing to figure out where the finances lie and will be continuing to review the financial plan and investment options. She helped to create a donation button on the CLA website and has lots of plans in the horizon.

**Presentation of Candidates for CLA Office**
Glenn Grube, CLA past president & nominations chair introduced the slate of candidates:
- **Vice President/President Elect:** Tom Piezzo, Brainerd Memorial Library (Haddam)
- **Recording Secretary:** Danielle Valenzano, Milford Public Library
- **Region #1 Representative:** Travis Feder, Max R. Traurig Library (Naugatuck Valley Community College)
- **Region #4 Representative:** Geri Diorio, Stratford Library
- **Region #5 Representative:** Robbie Marshall, Brainerd Memorial Library (Haddam)
- **NELA Representative:** Christy Billings, Russell Library (Middletown)

Grube announced that since all of the proposed candidates are running unopposed, he is invoking the option to do a voice vote. A motion to approve the presented slate of candidates for 2019 was made by Richard Conroy and seconded by Beth Crowley and was unanimously approved.
formance Review, where Jane Fisher, director of the Wallingford Public Library, and Beth Crowley, Director of The Cheshire Public Library, discussed new ways to approach performance reviews to ensure a collaborative and productive process; and, Giving and Receiving Criticism: The Basics, where, Laura A. Horn, executive director of the Farmington Libraries, and Sarah Mias, director of information & teen services at the Farmington Libraries, offered tips to prepare you for your next critique, whether you are the one giving or receiving the criticism.

Reporter: Kari Hamad

Moving through the Ranks

Presenters Andrea O'Shea, head of reference & technical services, Windsor Public Library, Sarah Morgan, director, East Hartford Public Library, Beth Crowley, director, Cheshire Public Library, and Jessica Miller, director, Somers Public Library spent an hour giving their insights into what it takes to be in a managerial position within the library. All four have spent time working in children’s and teen departments and talked about how this work has helped them in their current positions. They shared their opinions on what it takes to be a good manager, skills that transfer from working as a children’s librarian (like how doing story times helps build presentation skills), and some of the common misconceptions of management.

Reporter: Kari Hamad

The Power of Youth Services

Youth services advocate Michael Sullivan shared advice on how to become an advocate for children’s and teen services at our own libraries. He believes that the youth services department is the driving force behind the public library. He gave statistics to back up this idea and shared ideas on what to do and say to help the library’s administration see just how valuable the youth services department really is. He encouraged children’s librarians to get involved in writing library policy, advocating for a percentage of the budget based on the departments circulation stats, and reminded us that getting out of the children’s room to promote the department may be just as important as the work we do within the children’s room.

Reporter: Kari Hamad

Author Jean Baur
Left and below: Keynote speakers: author Vashti Harrison (l) and romance writers panel (below) featuring authors Regina Kyle, Jenn McKinlay, Jamie Pope and Sherry Thomas.

Jennifer Rummel 🍌📚 @yabooknerd · Apr 30
This is just to say that @VashtiHarrison is amazing and inspiring!!! #CLAcon

Sarah Briggs @jlawmedia · May 1
Such a moving keynote! One of my fav parts: that astronaut Mae Jemison was inspired by Lieutenant Uhura on Star Trek #CLACon #RepresentationMatters

Anika Nailah @anikanailah · Apr 29
Replying to @emilyelling @CTLibAssoc
Excited to meet everyone today! Some of my best childhood memories happened with books. I knew the power of words early on as I sat by my mother’s side, and the black marks on the page became words from her lips, became pictures in my mind. #dacon
Scenes from Conference

CT Library Assoc @CTLibAssoc - Apr 30
A gathering of CLA’s past presidents. A force for good in the Connecticut library community! #CLAcon #ctlibrarians
Richard Conroy, who has served as executive director of the Essex Library since June of 2008, will retire on June 28. He is also a past president of CLA. His successor will be Deb Smith, who will take over effective July 1. Smith most recently worked at Miss Porter’s School in Farmington. She holds an MLIS degree from Kent State University.

Danielle Murray joins the team at Avon Free Public Library as a children’s library specialist. Murray, a Los Angeles native and digital art enthusiast, previously mentored youth at Hartford Public Library’s teen learning lab, YOUmedia.

Maria Bernier is assuming a new position as library specialist, statewide data coordinator at the CT State Library, division of library development.

Patrice Celli retired on June 1 after 14+ years as a reference librarian at Avon Free Public Library.

The Southern CT State University (SCSU) ILS department congratulates Dr. Gayle Bogel on her selection as the recipient of the 2019 SCSU Outstanding Academic Advisor award. The outstanding faculty academic advising award recognizes the integral links between excellent academic advising and student retention and success, and rewards faculty who provide exceptional academic advising and mentoring to undergraduate or graduate students. Bogel is a faculty member in the newly developed MLIS program at SCSU that supports exemplary mentoring and advising of graduate students.

Maeleah Carlisle is the new children’s librarian at the Cora J. Belden Library.

At the Hartford Public Library:
- Denise Martens is the new system-wide manager of youth and family services. Denise has 15 years of library experience and was head of youth services at New London Public Library before coming to HPL.
- Nancy Kumar is the new adult education site coordinator for The American Place. Previously she was a training facilitator with the SEIU healthcare union in Chicago.
- Michael Elder has been promoted from adult learning assistant to adult education specialist for The American Place, which assist immigrants and refugees in the greater Hartford area. Elder previously worked as an English teacher with Hartford Public Schools and CREC, primarily teaching grades 6-8.
- Liz Castle has been promoted to manager of public events & programming. Castle was formerly public programming assistant. Castle has worked as a project assistant for the UConn Extension helping AmeriCorps Vista volunteers in 15 food-related nonprofits, such as Hartford Food Systems, New Haven Farms, New Britain ROOTS, and FRESH in New London.

In April, Jasmin Agosto and Nancy Finlay of the Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library were each presented with awards of merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. Agosto was honored for creating “Hartford Hip Hop Digital Stories,” which examined and explored Hartford’s hip hop scene in the 1980s and 1990s. Finlay won her award for editing and compiling the book, In the Grand Tradition: The Enduring Art of Elbert Weinberg.
Around the State

The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced **New Haven Free Public Library** as one of 10 recipients of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Over the past 25 years, the award has celebrated institutions that are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

The New Haven Free Public Library first opened its doors to all in 1887 as a community pillar of learning, exploration and inspiration. Through citizen engagement, inclusive growth, and equity of access to resources and opportunities, NHFPL welcomes more than 850,000 visitors annually through its front doors and digital portals. Together with the mayor, board of alders, board of directors, NHFPL Foundation, scores of partners and our community, NHFPL proudly builds connections as one city with one future.

Selected from 30 national finalists, the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service. Through their community outreach, these institutions bring about change that touches the lives of individuals and helps communities thrive.

“We are thrilled to receive this award, which honors our 132-year legacy and early attributes that still ring true today: a welcoming front door for all, a fighting spirit to serve as the people’s university, a catalyst for civic improvement, a drive to innovate tempered by fiscal restraint, and a love of humanity,” said Martha Brogan, city librarian and director of NHFPL.

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 Kate Byroade (l) passes the gavel to incoming president Lisa Karim (r), director of the Simsbury Public Library.
Conference Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who attended the 2019 CLA annual conference at the Mystic Marriott. We hope you enjoyed your time with us and that you went back to your library excited and rejuvenated about library services.

Our mission when we started planning this conference was to take the suggestions we received from last year’s surveys and other information we gathered, to make a conference that was inclusive and worth the time spent away from your home libraries.

We thank our attendees as well as their directors for allowing them to attend and their fellow co-workers who stayed behind to man the library. Thank you for making it possible for them to attend.

Hosting a state conference takes a village, therefore we’d like to thank the following people for all their hard work and support. This conference is put together with the help of so many people that have volunteered their time and expertise, we know that we could not have pulled it together without them, and in no way would it have been so great!

- Our exhibitor and vendor co-chairs Kymberlee Powe and Alessandra Petrino. They did an amazing job getting everything organized and making sure everything ran smoothly. We’re so happy they are staying on for another year.

- Chris Carney and Stephanie Prato for taking care of the registration desk. We know we’re leaving the conference in great hands.

- Team CLC, who knows the power of we. We couldn’t have pulled this off without you.

- All our speakers. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise.

- CLA executive board members Kristina Edwards, Lisa Karim, Glenn Grube, and Catherine Potter for their constant support and communication and filling in wherever needed.

- Thank you to the staff at Acton Public Library and Cragin Memorial Library for pulling together and supporting us when we were busy busy planning conference.

- And finally to Kate Byroade for her excellent leadership and guidance.

We hope that everyone had a great conference and we can’t wait to see you all again next year!

Amanda Brouwer and Jennifer Rummel