We are the four librarians who fought a government gag order a decade ago when FBI agents demanded library records under the Patriot Act and told us, under penalty of criminal prosecution, that we couldn't talk about it. We members of what the media called "the Connecticut Four" haven't reunited in the civil liberties cause. Until now.

Attempts are being made in the U.S. Senate to expand the amount and kinds of information that the government may compel libraries and others to divulge.

This could once again infringe on the civil liberties of library patrons and silence librarians as we were silenced a dozen years ago.

**What Happened Then**

"It's a federal criminal offense to discuss this matter with anyone. Do you understand?"

That's what the FBI agents said to George Christian, then and now the executive director of Library Connection, in 2005 when they handed him a so-called National Security Letter. The letter demanded that the libraries in our network identify patrons who had used library computers online at a specific time one year earlier.

All the patrons who used the computers could be under suspicion, without their knowledge. This intrusion into their freedom to research was completely unwarranted, in all senses of that word, because no judge had determined it was necessary.

Sadly, both the National Security Letter and the gag order that went with it were entirely legal under the then-new Patriot Act, hastily passed by Congress in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. But that didn't mean they were right.

As a result, we — the members of Library Connection's executive committee at the time — served as plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the legality of the request. The American Civil Liberties Union defended us. Of course, because none of us wanted to go to jail for violating the gag order, all of our names had to be listed as John Doe or Jane Doe.

A year later, the government withdrew its demand for information as well as its gag order. We could talk about what happened. This was a win for civil liberties.

In the 10 years since then, we have spoken out, individually, against the excesses of the Patriot Act many times, most recently in support of modest but landmark Patriot Act reforms enacted by Congress last year.

**CONTINUED ON P. 6**

With its modern facility, 50 public access computers and 3-D printer, robust calendar of engaging programs for people of all ages, and friendly, professional staff, the Wallingford Public Library has long been considered a gem in public life of this Connecticut town of 45,000 residents. Now, with the opening of its “Collaboratory,” the library has raised the bar on itself.

The Collaboratory @ WPL is a 2,400-square-foot maker space, digital media lab, and co-working space in Wallingford’s main library at 200 North Main Street. The Collaboratory contains a wide variety of state-of-the-art technology as well as traditional handcrafting tools. In its last community survey and in conversations with library users and non-users alike, the Wallingford Public Library learned that residents are seeking more opportunities to gather to learn about new technology, skills, and applied arts. The Wallingford Public Library, a highly regarded and trusted asset in the community, is committed to being a place for just this kind of lifelong learning.

Why Maker Spaces? Maker spaces, a recent trend in public libraries, spark imagination, build community, and attract new audiences that might otherwise assume the public library is not for them. Janet Flewelling, the library’s Head of Emerging and Creative Technologies, explained, “We are doing the same thing public libraries have always done – fostering opportunities for learning, except with a wider range of tools.”

Digital Media Lab The Collaboratory also is equipped to be Wallingford’s public digital media lab. Here patrons will be able to interview their relatives for a family history project; scan photos or 35 mm negatives or slides; make music; shoot photos or videos in front of a green screen; use advanced editing software; print photos on a high resolution color printer and cut mats for framing; digitize VHS tapes; or record a podcast. The space includes a pop-up video/photo booth and a multimedia collaborative projection system.
Message from the President

I am pleased to welcome two new members of the CLA board. Gen Francis will fill the role of Technology Section Chair, previously held by Melissa Ceraso. Melissa left to become editor in mathematics and the natural sciences at Choice magazine. Gen is network support specialist at Bibliomation, Inc., CT’s largest ILS consortium, with over 48 libraries located throughout the state.

Susan Dowdell has resigned as Region 1 Rep, and Britta Santamauro has volunteered to fill the position with her term ending in June 2017. Britta is the director of library services at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury.

Please join me in thanking Melissa and Susan for serving CLA and wishing Gen and Britta all the best in their new roles.

I also want to thank our committee and section chairs for planning an impressive schedule of workshops this fall. I hope all members will take advantage of these wonderful professional development opportunities—there is literally something for everyone.

Don’t miss the ACLB workshop on Friday, November 4, and the FOCL annual conference on Saturday, November 19. CLA’s lobbyist, Kate Robinson, will be speaking at both events; it is a great opportunity for members of CT library boards and friends to learn about advocating for our libraries.

Finally, a sincere thank you goes out to the “Connecticut Four”—Peter Chase, Barbara Bailey, Jan Nocek and George Christian—who advocated once again against the threat of infringement on our patrons’ civil liberties in their op-ed published in the Hartford Courant on September 28.

Karen Jensen is the director of the James Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford

2017 CLA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars now for the 2017 CLA Annual Conference!

May 4 - 5 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa.

The theme will be: Uncharted Waters Navigating the Changing Tides in Librarianship.

The 2017 Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference is seeking proposals for programs that touch on new ways libraries are embracing technology, partnerships, and techniques for dealing with the adventures that lie ahead for Connecticut libraries.

Click here for more information.
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Workshops for Curious People

Inspired by the Brooklyn Brainery, Meetup.com, local hackerspaces, and various lifelong learning institutes, the Wallingford Public Library has seen an increase in the number of teens and adults registering for its technology classes, craft programs, cooking programs, and "Break-It, Make It" program for children. Hands-on learning in a collaborative, non-academic setting is attracting people to public library programs, and the Collaboratory offers just the right environment for high-tech topics such as robotics, to low-tech programs like coloring nights and gaming.

Support for the DIY Movement

Books and magazines about do-it-yourself topics continue to be popular in public libraries and the Collaboratory seeks to further expand the community's interest in the DIY movement. Thanks to creative folks like Tim Sway, a local up-cyclist (check out the Collaboratory's guitar made by Sway from wood harvested from the pier at Hammonasset), people will have opportunities to learn from local DIY enthusiasts.

The Collaboratory's fall event schedule includes workshops with Sway who will introduce maker tools, method and theory and help participants create a collaborative project using reclaimed materials. The Collaboratory also features a bicycle repair station and indoor growing stations for live plants. This fall, the Wallingford Public Library will partner with Etsy, a leader in e-commerce for creative entrepreneurs, to offer free classes to help craft makers establish an online business to sell their products to a wider market and earn extra income.

Meet Up with Your Peeps

As co-working spaces and meet-ups flourish, libraries recognize that people are looking to connect socially, or to gather and work where there is a good Wi-Fi connection, wireless printing, a cup of coffee, and a vibrant atmosphere. In the Collaboratory, a large conference table and a booth with a multimedia collaborative projection system may be reserved in advance for co-working purposes. A phoneless phone booth is available for private phone and video calls. For those working solo who are accustomed to the energy of the neighborhood coffee shop rather than being cloistered in silence, the Collaboratory will be a welcome "home office away from home."

How does it Work?

The Collaboratory is divided into two areas. The main space contains computers with advanced software, worktables, a horseshoe booth with a projection and collaboration system, and a popup photography/video studio. The smaller room, known as the Vault, houses the equipment that requires staff supervision. Individual instruction about the more complex equipment as well as small group maker classes is offered. Details about the Collaboratory, a complete list of equipment available, full- and self-service hours, fees for materials, and how to contribute are found at: http://wallingford.lioninc.org/?q=collaboratory.

Reading Still Matters!

While the Wallingford Public Library is excited to offer new opportunities for co-working, collaboration and tinkering with technology, it has not lost sight of the library as a place for reading. When the space for the Collaboratory was planned, an attractive new area for the library's collection of new books for adults was created to house the adult fiction and non-fiction books that needed to be relocated. "The new books area is our premiere collection," said Library Director Jane Fisher, "so it was important to us that they be displayed in an attractive and comfortable area."

To underscore the importance of reading to its users, the library installed an Overdrive media station in the Collaboratory to make access to ebooks easier than ever.

Our Doors Open to Endless Possibilities

What might people do or make in the Collaboratory @ WPL? The possibilities are endless! Examples of activities people might pursue include, but certainly are not limited to the following:

- Compose an original piece of music
- Contribute to an ongoing weaving project on the community loom
- Make laser cut invitations
- Sew a baby quilt
- Design and produce an ink stamp with a business logo
- Convert old family films on VHS to digital files
- Take photos in front of the green screen and then edit the background

There will be times for people to use the space, materials, and equipment individually, to work in groups with others, and to take workshops offered by the Library.

The budget for the Collaboratory was $460,000. Fifty percent of the funding was provided by a CT State Library Construction Grant. For more information about the Collaboratory at Wallingford Public Library, contact Janet Flewelling, Head of Emerging and Creative Technologies (jflewelling@lioninc.org) or Janet Flewelling, Director (jfisher@wallingfordlibrary.org) at 203.265.6754.
Celebrating 50 Years at New Haven Free Public Library

Marianne Carolla lives in New Haven, the town where she was raised and matriculated from elementary to high school. Growing up, the New Haven Free Public Library was always her go-to place for reading and books. After attending college in Ohio for two years, Marianne returned to Connecticut in 1966.

She applied for a job as a library assistant at NHFPL and accepted the position which sent her across the city to any of the 8 library branches at the time! She landed at Stetson Library where she remained for her first couple of years. In true librarian fashion, Marianne multitasked, working full-time while also finishing her BA. She went on to graduate school for her MLS. Again, in the spirit of always learning, Marianne is now working on completing her second MA at Albertus Magnus College!

What is your role at the New Haven Free Public Library? I am a member of the reference department at Ives Main Library, where I serve as a Librarian III.

What do you enjoy most about working at NHFPL? The best part of working at NHFPL is engaging with the people who use the library every day. They come from all over New Haven and from so many different cultural backgrounds and languages. It is a joy to get to see this all in one place!

What book are you currently reading or is on your nightstand waiting to be explored? I am currently reading The Dynamics of Conflict: A Guide to Engagement and Intervention by Bernard Mayer.

What is your fondest NHFPL memory or the accomplishment of which you are most proud over the past 50 years? Some of my fondest memories at NHFPL are of meeting authors who come into the library just to see if we have their book on our shelves. I also love having a chance to be at all our branches and work with all the different neighborhoods of New Haven. Over the years, I have loved helping the youth in all of New Haven's diverse neighborhoods. Being thanked by them years later when they bring their own children into the library for assistance and are able to say, "This is the librarian who helped me when I was your age," is a truly special moment!

CLA Upcoming Fall Programs

October 20
Public Libraries Section Annual Meeting
Help Us to Help You!: Making Your Library More User Friendly
Wallingford Public Library

October 21
Low or No Budget Programs and How to Promote Them
Sponsored by the Reference & Adult Services Section
Henry Carter Hull Library, Clinton

October 27
The Purpose-Based Library: Finding Your Path to Survival, Success and Growth
Customer Service Fall Workshop
Wallingford Public Library

October 28
CLA Support Staff (CLASS) Professional Development Conference
University of Hartford, Harry Jack Gray Center

November 1
Library Access for All
Sponsored by the ADA Committee
West Haven Public Library

November 9
Challenging ‘Illegal Aliens”: The Provocations of the US Immigration Debate and the Politics of Subject Terminology in the Library
Sponsored by the Technical Services Section
University of Hartford, Harry Jack Gray Center

November 16
Young Adult Librarian Meet-Up
Wallingford Public Library

For more details on any of these programs, or to register click here.
But some senators are angling to increase surveillance authority. This past summer, the Senate barely defeated legislation that would have expanded the FBI’s authority to collect information by using National Security Letters that could gag librarians and others without a court order. The legislation was attached as an amendment to a Justice Department spending bill.

The senators could try again any time — including tacking the legislation onto the government funding bill that has to pass this week to avoid a shutdown.

The New Threat

This expanded authority wouldn’t expose the content of patron communications made through library computers. It would, however, force us librarians to give the FBI other potentially revealing "transaction records," such as top-level internet domains visited by a patron; links clicked on by a patron to access another website; e-mail metadata (such as the time an email was sent, its size, its type of attachment and maybe even its subject line); and the time and length of an internet search session.

This would take the Patriot Act authority in exactly the wrong direction.

This is a position that, ungauged, we’re proud to take together once again — this time with our real names attached.

Peter Chase is retired from the Plainville Public Library. Barbara Bailey is director of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury. Jan Nocek is director of the Portland Public Library. George Christian is executive director of the Library Connection, a nonprofit cooperative of 30 libraries.

This piece was originally published in the Hartford Courant, and was re-printed with permission of the authors.
People in the News

Marcela Aristizabal, MLIS student at Simmons College and Stamford resident, was awarded the American Library Association Spectrum Scholarship 2016-2017. According to ALA, “Spectrum recruits and provides scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students to assist them with obtaining a graduate degree and leadership positions within the profession and our organization. Our aim is to increase the number of racially and ethnically diverse professionals in the field of library and information science to best position libraries at the core of today’s culturally diverse communities.” Read more here.

Vicky Coffin is the new head librarian at the Salem Free Public Library. She is a 17-year veteran of the field, with experience in both public and academic libraries.

Patricia Lunn, director of Woodbury Public Library since December 1999, has retired. Pat has lived in Woodbury since 1981 and began working part-time at the library in March 1992. She became full time in August 1996 as adult services librarian. Under her leadership the library has won 4 major awards including the most recent Excellence in Library Service for last fall’s “Pay it Forward” program. She served as an area representative for the CLA Board and on the board of the former WCLC. She was visionary in the creation of the teen department.

Mary Fiorelli, who has worked at the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library for over 19 years with 16 of them as director, has retired. The incoming director is Katie Huffman.

After twenty-one years of service to the Somers Community, Francine Aloisa, director of the Somers Public Library, has retired.

Eileen Branciforte, director of the Cromwell Belden Public Library has retired. Read an article.

Bernadette Baldino has retired after twenty-one years of service to the Easton Public Library. The library board of directors has selected Lynn Zaffino as the new director.

Wilton Library’s circulation services manager, Karen Zeibak, wrote a featured book review of Sharon Bolton’s Daisy in Chains for the September issue of Library Reads, featuring the top ten new books that librarians across the country love.

Executive Director Elaine Tai-Lauria of Wilton Library was recently awarded the Paul Harris Fellow recognition from the Wilton Rotary Club for her service and contributions to the organization.

Erica Gauquier is the new teen services librarian at Ridgefield Library, replacing Geri Diorio, who is now assistant director at Stratford Library.

Kelly Moore, a bright and talented student worker at Central Connecticut State University’s Elihu Burritt Library Access Services Department, designed the CLA Support Staff (CLASS) section’s new logo. Kelly is majoring in instrumental music with a concentration in tuba and graduating with her BA this Fall. She plans to enroll in a Masters of Library and Information Science program shortly after graduation and absolutely loves working at libraries, especially with children and young adults. She is currently seeking to work at a library’s children’s or young adult department and help develop creative programs and services, such as a graphic novel club and music lab. The Burritt Library will miss her and wishes her the best after graduation!
News from around the State

Hartford Public Library has been awarded a three-year grant of $595,000 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services for its “Linking Learning, Belonging and Community” program in partnership with Hartford Public Schools. Immigrant and English-language learners who cannot communicate or learn effectively in English are among the fastest growing segment of the population in U.S. public schools. Research shows a critical lack of resources to help this population. The Library and Hartford Public Schools will work with other community partners to develop an interdisciplinary curriculum for immigrant and refugee youth, ages 17 to 21, which focuses on English language acquisition, digital information literacy skills, leadership development, cultural competency, and social action. It is expected that the program will serve 180 youths who will participate over nine cycles and may earn academic credit.

Read an article from The Hour about the funding challenges facing an association library featuring Wilton Library’s Executive Director Elaine Tai-Lauria and Wilton Library Trustee Nick Davatzes.

Read an article in The Hartford Courant about the new makerspace at Simsbury Public Library.

On September 18 the community of Killingly dedicated the library’s community room in memory of former director Marie Chartier who passed away in May. Many town citizens, dignitaries, and Marie’s family participated in the dedication. The overwhelming sentiment that day was that Marie deserved to be recognized for her accomplishments as library director for 33 years and her care and dedication to the citizens and library of Killingly.

The Goshen Public Library was the August 2016 winner of Sisters in Crime’s We Love Libraries $1,000 grant to be used for materials for their collection.