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### NELLS Roundup

New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) is five-day intensive training program is to foster the mentoring and development of leaders in state and regional library associations. NELLS was created through a cooperative effort of the New England Library Association and all six New England state library associations. Read about the experiences of 3 CT librarians who attended NELLS 2019.

**From Jennifer Sullivan**, Woodbridge Town Library:

I loved NELLS; it's funny to go into a room full of strangers and come out a week later with new friends. The manager life is often a solitary one—you're the boss and can't have the same level of relationships as you did in the past, so who do you talk to? NELLS brought me into contact with a great bunch of other managers, where it was safe to share and commiserate, and you knew you had someone to listen and who understood. There was a safety, a comfort even, in commiseration, troubleshooting, and finding your way. In short: it was great, it was intense, and it was challenging. The presentations and

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Dear Connecticut Colleague:

When I arrived in Connecticut as the library director in Suffield in 1974, I knew not one person.

As word spread that there was a new librarian in the state, I was invited to join what would become the most important organization in my career—the Connecticut Library Association.

Why was it the most important? Because it exposed me to new people, new thinking, and new skills in a time I needed support the most. Connecticut librarians still need that support more than ever.

Now, many years later, CLA is asking for OUR support. State institutions all over the country are finding themselves fiscally challenged and CLA is no different.

I’m asking you to join me in becoming an inaugural member of the CLA Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund will provide many things to forward our profession in the state such as:

- A grant for a first-time annual conference attendee
- Scholarships for staff advancing their professional degrees
- Professional Enhancement Grants (PEG) for staff
- Support expenses critical to the mission of the organization

But more than that, donating could give you a chance to pay back an organization that has made a difference in your career or stabilize one that will make a difference when you need it, as I did. Please consider contributing to the Legacy Fund now at ctlibraryassociation.org.

Yours in librarianship,

Maxine Bleiweis
Past CLA President

P.S. I am so grateful to CLA that I am offering to match each donation made through December 2019.

While contributions or gifts to the Connecticut Library Association are not tax deductible as charitable contributions, they go a long way to furthering libraries and librarians throughout Connecticut.
panels at NELLS made me think about things differently than I had before—not only in libraries and leadership, but how I present myself, how I work with my colleagues, how I can institute change, among other things.

From Kari Hamad, Wallingford Public Library:
Attending NELLS this past summer was an amazing experience. As a relatively new manager, I feel fortunate to have been able to spend a week away from distractions focusing on building my leadership skills. Getting the chance to work with Maureen Sullivan was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Beyond all of the wisdom she imparted to us she gave us ample time to talk in small groups, working through specific scenarios pulled from our home libraries. The biggest takeaway from NELLS has been a total mindset shift in how I approach my work—one that I will hopefully see payoff over the coming months and years!

From Danielle Valenzano
Milford Public Library:
NELLS was intense, in a good way, and eye-opening to the opportunities that are available in the library world. Maureen Sullivan is a wonderful presenter and speaker and such a key influence in inspiring leadership skills within your library. I really enjoyed all of her discussions both to the group as a whole and also the discussions we had amongst ourselves in smaller groups. Most of all, I loved the camaraderie formed within the group of NELLS participants and mentors. We had so much fun brainstorming and discussing "all things library" with one another... commiserating about problems we might be having, but also helping each other solve those problems and find resources and solutions for problems we currently have (or that may arise in the future) within our current positions. I left NELLS with more confidence in myself as a librarian, a colleague, a coworker, and even a state association member. It left me with a feeling that the work matters.

Message from the President

It seems like our ability to provide access and service to our communities is constantly being threatened. Whether it’s the greater competition for increasingly more limited funding, the recent Macmillan eBook embargo or the recent US Court of Appeals unanimous ruling to uphold the FCC’s repeal of net neutrality regulations, we need to be vigilant in making our voices heard.

Take a minute and sign the petition at eBooksForAll.org to let Macmillan know that limiting libraries’ purchase of one copy per title, then requiring 8 weeks before additional copies are available for purchase is unacceptable. This is a social equity issue, which has the greatest impact on those in most need of library resources. On behalf of CLA, I have contacted Macmillan Chief Executive Officer John Sargent to let him know our position.

Contact your state legislators and urge them to support net neutrality efforts here in Connecticut. While this may take more than the minute required of signing a petition, your input matters. You can find your legislators at cga.ct.gov. The silver lining to the Court of Appeals decision regarding net neutrality is that it also ruled that the FCC can’t block states from enacting their own net neutrality protections. Fair and equitable treatment of internet traffic ensures, among other things, that as libraries we’re able to effectively serve our communities.

Thanks to Sam Lee of the Intellectual Freedom Committee for coming up with the idea of a Banned Bands event at Labyrinth Brewery, and to Tom Piezzo for helping to make it happen. If you missed it, you missed an afternoon of great music, fantastic beer and laid back networking. Watch for more opportunities to enjoy time with your CLA peers.

There are still three Town Hall Listening Tour meetings coming up in the next month. It’s not necessary to attend the meeting in your region if another location or date is more convenient.

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<th>Region 5</th>
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<td>Region 2</td>
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Please plan to attend and encourage colleagues to join you. Information gathered at these meetings will be used in crafting the CLA legislative agenda. CLA can only represent you and your needs if you speak up. This is your opportunity to be heard.

We welcome Kym Powe back to the CLA Board in her new role as Grants/Fundraising Chair. If you’re interested in becoming involved there are many sections and committees which would love to have you
Section & Committee News

From the Intellectual Freedom Committee
Sam Lee, chair

Earlier this year, a concerning rumor was going around about the popular learning database, Lynda.com. It seemed that the new owners of Lynda.com – LinkedIn (themselves a subsidiary of Microsoft) – would be rolling out a platform update. However, this update was particularly concerning as it would require library users to create LinkedIn profiles to access the resources. Librarians expressed their concerns – about the privacy of patrons on the professional networking site. This prompted my blog post to alert other librarians about the various issues.

As more libraries got news about the planned update, this story gained momentum with ALA releasing a statement urging LinkedIn to amend their terms of service to conform with privacy ethics of library professionals. LinkedIn responded with their own statement, selling the platform change as necessary to authenticate legitimate library users from fraudulent ones that they said were rampant on Lynda.com. It was a feint used to distract from the serious privacy issues by casting librarians as lackadaisical about patron authentication.

LinkedIn has since announced that they are pausing the libraries’ transition from Lynda to LinkedIn Learning. They’ve had sales reps reach out to libraries but have not made any formal announcements on their sites. It’s unclear if LinkedIn will be making changes along the lines ALA’s statement suggested. I am still circumspect about LinkedIn’s actions, but am encouraged by libraries collectively pushing back.

On Friday, Nov. 15, the technology section and the intellectual freedom committee will be hosting a fall workshop. The afternoon features a panel of CT librarians continuing the conversation about Lynda/LinkedIn Learning and evolving privacy issues in library technology.

A NEW Section for CLA!
We’re here, we’re queer, we’re an official CLA Section!
Marissa Bucci and Kristina Lareau, co-chairs

The LGBTQ+ Section strives to keep members up to date on news and trends in the LGBTQ+ sphere, and address issues such as:

- Gendered language
- Programming
- Collection development
- Conflict resolution

If any of these things interest you, or if you have ideas, join us at the next LGBTQ Roundtable on Nov. 12 at 2pm at the Wallingford Library, where we will focus on collection development and decide on a CLA conference proposal! We would love to hear from you.
Upcoming programs

Technical Services Section Fall Program
RDA and Bibframe, from Development to Implementation
**October 24, 2019**
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Energizing Your Customer Service Skills
Attend fun and informative sessions on ways to improve skills with patrons and co-workers. Hear from experienced library professionals and ask questions about their experiences.
**October 25, 2019**
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Public Libraries Section Fall Program
Update your Genealogy Toolkit: Current State Library Resources & Commercial DNA Testing
**November 08, 2019**
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Young Adult Section
Join for a day full of author talk, publisher previews, teen programming and more!
**November 11, 2019**
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

CryptoPartying with Lynda
Privacy is a Right
**November 15, 2019**
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

The Intellectual Freedom Committee and Technology Section of the CT Library Association are teaming up again for a fall workshop on privacy. This time we’re focusing on CryptoParties and Lynda. CryptoParties are a decentralized movement with the goal of passing on knowledge about protecting oneself in the digital space.

Sign up online at: www.ctlibraryassociation.org

CLA Today Oct/Nov 2019
People in the News

Cindy Wright, manager of circulation and technical services at the Groton Public Library, will be retiring as of Nov. 30 after 27 years of service.

Sally Tornow has retired as director of the New Milford Public Library after 25 years of service in various positions. Jodi Weisz is the new director.

Betty Lema, the librarian at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School for the past 50 years, retired in June.

Barbara Fritsch has retired as children’s librarian at Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton.

Maisam Nouh, who started her career at The Ferguson Library as a teen volunteer 19 years ago, has been promoted to the position of information technology supervisor. Outside the library, Nouh serves on the education advisory committee of the Connecticut Education Network (the library’s internet provider), and is the co-coordinator of the Innovative Users Group Idea Lab. She also serves on the board of the Stamford History Center.

Also at The Ferguson Library, Elizabeth Joseph, the library’s former coordinator of adult and information services, has been promoted to associate director of community engagement, a new position that emphasizes the library’s commitment to building community.

Maria Zervos, former branch librarian at Ora Mason Branch of the West Haven Library, is now the head of children’s services for the West Haven Library.

Melissa Behney is the new director of library and learning commons services at Middlesex Community College.

Adrianne Dunham is the new library director for Tunxis Community College.

At the Easton Library, Kristine Oulman was promoted from page to youth services programming assistant. Two new pages have joined the staff: Weston Keenan and Nicole Angelescu.

Samantha Saliter is the new co-director of children’s services at The Kent Memorial Library together with Abigail Parker.

April Hannon is the new children’s librarian at the East Hampton Library. She previously worked at the Babcock Library in Ashford.

Brian Story is the new young adult services librarian at the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook. He is a transplant from New York where he has been a librarian since 2006, working in state and community colleges, public and business/government libraries.

Christina Anzalone is the new director of the Rowayton Library.

Liz Setaro is the new director of the Beacon Falls Public Library.

Clevell Roseboro is the new director of the Willington Public Library.

At the Berlin-Peck Library, head of circulation, Lisa Spalla, retired on Oct. 1. Jonathan Noyes took over the position. Cara Peterson will be joining the children’s department on Oct. 23 and Melinda Sexton is the new circulation clerk.†
The American Place at Hartford Public Library (HPL), received a two-year, $225,000 grant by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). HPL is the only library and the only Connecticut recipient of a USCIS grant in 2019. Only 41 USCIS grants were issued nationwide.

The grants, which are allocated through the USCIS’s Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program, are designed to assist organizations that provide education and assistance to lawful permanent residents seeking to obtain U.S. citizenship. Since 2009, the USCIS program has assisted an estimated 245,000 legal permanent residents prepare for citizenship.

The Stratford Public Library, in partnership with Stratford Parents’ Place Family Resource Center, announces the release of the Healing Library project.

Families experiencing a traumatic event often turn to the library or school for support and information to help their children. Healing Library kits provide a set of resources to start a family on their unique journey of healing.

Each kit contains picture books and guided reading, discussion guides on topics, activities and materials to provide comfort to family members, suggested acts of kindness, additional reading suggestions, and community helpers so families know where to start reaching out for continued help. The kits are not intended to take the place of professional help.

Available topics include death of a loved one, death of a pet, and Alzheimer’s & your family. The kits are available for families to borrow at Stratford Parents’ Place and the Stratford Library children’s department. Future topics will include divorce and step families, cancer & your family, and economic hardship.

Funding was provided by a Stratford Rotary Club’s Community Impact Grant and from The Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Connecticut State Library.

Russell Library and the Middletown Park and Rec partnered for a one of a kind book discussion on Friday, Aug. 16. It was called Book Yak on a Kayak and was held at Crystal Lake in Middletown.

Registration was required for all paddlers with a limited number of kayaks/canoes available from Middletown Park and Rec. Participants could also bring their own equipment, (boat, paddle, personal floatation device) We discussed The River by Peter Heller. It is “the story of two college friends on a wilderness canoe trip—a gripping tale of a friendship tested by fire, whitewater, starvation, and brutality.” (Goodreads) Question cards were created that were then laminated for each of the participants to pose a question about the story. There were cards for those who read the book, and also questions for those who didn’t read the book. Everyone can contribute to the conversation. There were 11 participants for the inaugural event!

Danbury Library, partnering with Danbury Youth Services, was selected as one of only 35 U.S. libraries to participate in the American Library Association’s Great Stories Club series on Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation, a thematic reading and discussion program series that engages underserved teens through literature-based library outreach programs and racial healing work.

The program is supported as part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation effort, a comprehensive, national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism.

Around the State
Save the Date!
Sunday, April 26 - Tuesday, April 28, 2020
at the Mystic Marriott Resort & Spa, Groton, CT

Program proposal submissions now open!
The Conference Committee is seeking program proposals for the CLA 2020 annual conference. Fill out this form to submit a proposal. Deadline to submit is November 22, 2019.

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