Preview of the Annual Conference

The 124th Annual Conference will be held April 27-28 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Groton, CT.

Keynote: Steven Bell
Creating Better Communities: Designing Library Experiences for the Pursuit of Happiness

Does your library make community members happy? Is that the experience a library should deliver, and if so, what actions would staff members take to design for happiness? New research is providing greater insight into what it means to be happy, what sort of experiences lead to happiness and how different factors, such as age and income, impact on what we generally think of as happiness. While we may believe that using libraries leads to a happier, more fulfilled life, how would we intentionally design an experience that enabled our community members to actually get that feeling from our libraries? Join Steven Bell, associate university librarian at Temple University Libraries, will share insights into the role of user experience design in libraries through an exploration of the role of that libraries can play in the pursuit of happiness.

Keynote: Michael Stephens
Learning Everywhere: Users, Empathy, and Reflective Practice

Emerging technologies are changing the way we live and learn. Libraries can play a key role in this future. Imagine the evolving hyperlinked library as a creation space, community space, anything space. Imagine this library available everywhere via mobile devices and tablets. Imagine opportunities for user learning supported and facilitated by librarians. How will library services change with MOOCs and mobile classrooms in the palm of one’s hand? What skills will staff require? Professionals flourish when activities, trainings, and events transform them from spectators into participants and co-creators. What does the library as creative classroom look like? What does this future look like as we encourage learning everywhere as a means for transformative change for ourselves and our users? We must always keep working to be there - in the moment - to be present, to be at the edge of what’s happening, and to be very visible while focusing on people, not technology, not the collection. Those are merely tools. This session will explore new ideas and thinking about learning at the library.

Register online at ctlibraryassociation.org. Early bird registration ends March 20.
Vince Juliano, a leader in the library community, retired from Russell Library after more than a decade of service; Vince was honored at a luncheon at Russell Library on January 2nd, 2015.

Vincent Juliano has served the library community and the people of Connecticut at an exceptionally high level of accomplishment for over forty years. Vince earned a B.A. in history, cum laude, from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1970. He earned an M.A. in history from Western Connecticut State University in 1977 and an M.S. in library science from Long Island University in 1973. He began in the Danbury Public Library as an adult services librarian in 1973. Later he served at the Connecticut State Library and then directed the Waterford Public Library for twenty three years (starting in 1980). Vince has served as a consultant, free-lance writer, and speaker on a wide variety of library and management related issues. He was an adjunct instructor and developed the management strategies class for the Library Technology Program at Three Rivers Community College in 2003 and he also spent years working as a social studies teacher.

Vince began his service at Russell Library in Middletown on July 19th, 2004. He has been the assistant director of Russell Library for the past decade. Vince has been instrumental in the library’s strategic plan, board of trustees succession plan, revisions to the trustees handbook, union contracts, policy and personnel issues, and has been active in many communities. He has held leadership positions in several library associations, including being a member of the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development and liaison to the Statewide Interlibrary Loan Task Force, and chairman of the Network Structure Task Force. He served as president of the Connecticut Library Association, as a board member of the Eastern Connecticut Libraries, Inc., and president of the Southeastern Connecticut Library Association.

Vince was named Outstanding Librarian of the Year by the Connecticut Library Association in 1991, he also received the Outstanding Librarian Award in 2014. Vince has contributed decades of dedicated and practical service to the library community. Vince is highly respected in his profession. He has extensive depth of historical knowledge about libraries and is also welcoming and well-versed in new and emerging trends; Vince is valued as a supportive mentor and role model for librarians throughout Connecticut, known for his willingness to listen and take time for colleagues. Vince has been a tremendous advocate for libraries and is known for being thoughtful even when managing difficult issues. Vince is recognized by his colleagues as being fair in his evaluations of people and situations. He is an outstanding administrator with a clear vision. He keeps a low profile, and rarely takes credit for his outstanding work. He is extremely dedicated to Russell Library and the library profession, and will be very much missed. Mayor Daniel Drew of Middletown proclaimed January 2nd to be VINCENT JULIANO DAY in the City of Middletown. On behalf of the citizens of Middletown, the mayor thanked Vince at his luncheon, for his many years of dedicated service to our library and community, and wished him a very happy retirement.
Message from the President

By Dawn LaValle, CLA President 2014-2015

With the State Bond Committee approval of full funding for the statewide eBook platform, Connecticut libraries and their communities will benefit from access to statewide resources and services at a level not yet realized by any other state. On behalf of the entire CLA membership I would like to express our deepest appreciation for the hard work of immediate Past President Richard Conroy; Legislative Committee Chair Carl Antonucci; Bobby “Go Libraries” Shea for his tenacious pursuit of support for CT libraries; State Librarian Ken Wiggin for his enduring leadership and everyone in the library community who called, emailed and wrote in support of the platform.

In other related news, Connecticut has been selected as the pilot state for the Aspen Institute Report: Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envision Public Libraries dialogue. A statewide event is in the planning stages for the spring and the Division of Library Development is bringing the dialogue to Connecticut libraries. We would like to hear how your library, your community, and your local policy makers are "rising to the challenge" to re-envision library service in your community. It is our hope that by sharing ideas, libraries throughout the state can fully realize a new vision for library service in Connecticut. Librarians, trustees, friends, community engagers, lawmakers are all welcome to join the conversation. The first dialogue will be hosted by the Middlebury Public Library on February 25th from 1-4p.m. CLA will be critical to this pilot project this year and moving forward.

This will be an exciting year for Connecticut! Go Libraries!

“The judge said he was going to throw the book at me. I hoped it was an ebook in the cloud, and not a heavy dictionary.”

— Jarod Kintz, 99 Cents For Some Nonsense

Dawn LaValle is Director of Library Development at the CT State Library
I recently read that your teen advisory group was selected by ALA to be only one of 15 groups around the country to participate in the Teen’s Top Ten Panel. Congratulations! Tell us a bit more about this... what is the TTT, and how did you come to be selected for it?

Thanks! The Teens’ Top Ten is a national list of titles chosen for teens, by teens. Each year, books are nominated for the TTT by fifteen teen groups from libraries around the country. And this year, Connecticut’s own Hagaman Teen Advisory Group (#HTAG) is among them! It’s very exciting. It means that members of our teen group will have their opinions heard on a national level. In addition, it means that publishers will be donating roughly 2400 advanced copies to our teen group. Getting to read these book months before they hit shelves is pretty cool. Having real-life publishers consider the opinions of our teens when making their publishing decisions? That’s even cooler.

Teen Groups are selected for a two-year term on the TTT based on an application which includes mock reviews written by members. If you have teens that would like to participate, there are still two ways they can take part this year. First, they can join HTAG. New members are welcome, but space is limited. Teens who are interested should email me at: smallory@hagamanlibrary.org, or call the library at: (203) 468-3890.

When the group is full, new members will be added to a waiting list. Alternatively, you can have your teens vote for their favorite books on the TTT list. Although only a few groups get to decide which books make it onto the list each year, ALL teens (ages 12-18) can vote for their favorites between August 15 and Teen Read Week (learn more at: http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teensopten). It would be great to get more CT teens involved!

Did you always want to work with teens?

Yes and no. Although I’ve been working at Hagaman Library for three years and with the teen group for two years, I’m still a newbie librarian; I just completed my MLS degree last year. In my classes, I realized I could be at home in any branch of librarianship. But I have always enjoyed working with teens. For a number of years, I was an advisor for the IORG, an international, nonprofit youth leadership organization for girls ages 11-20.

Working with that great group gave me experience in program and event planning for youth and, more importantly, in teaching young adults to plan their own programs and events. Those experiences have really translated well to the library environment. But I’m still learning something new every day, and I’d like to think the teen group is always improving as a result!

What are some tips for forming a teen advisory group? And keeping it going after it’s been formed?

What a great question. When I inherited the teen group two years ago, there were about six members. Since then, we’ve added a number of new projects and a number of new teens, too. HTAG now has about thirty members, and an average attendance of around 18 teens per meeting. The
The Lyme Public Library opened in its new facility on October 7, 2014. The new library was the culmination of almost twenty years of hoping and planning. After several false starts, the hope finally became reality in 2009 when the town of Lyme decided that the neighboring town hall needed to be expanded and modernized. With the idea of making a town campus, the town decided to include the library in its building plans. After exploring all the options, the Town Campus Center Building Committee made the decision to renovate and expand the existing town hall and to build a new facility for the library. The committee hired the firm of Tuthill and Wells, LLC to design both buildings. Ground was broken on October 17, 2013, and incredibly both buildings were ready for occupancy within a year. The new library stands just north of the old building with the town hall at the other end of the campus. We have cherished memories of the old library, and it was difficult to see it demolished just one week after moving into the new building, but the new library is a dream fulfilled.

The new library is approximately 1.5 times the size of the old building with an additional 2,000 square feet of critical basement space. The lack of a basement in the old library required using much needed space for storage. The basement provides ample storage as well as space for the Friends of the Library to store and sort books for our annual book sale. The old library also lacked a meeting room. The children’s room doubled as the program room, and in order to host meetings and programs, the staff had to roll heavy book bins between the stacks and set up chairs and tables. The new library features a 70 person meeting room with kitchen facilities and a multi-media projection system, which can be used by community organizations when the library is closed, as well as a conference room and a smaller quiet study room.

Two of the most popular areas are the children’s room and the reading area. The children’s room is bright and cheerful with many windows and natural light. Kids love the bright colored stools and chairs, and parents love the comfortable sofas where they can sit and read to their children or enjoy their own book while their children play. The former library had no computers in the children’s room, but the new library features three computer stations as well as a flat screen TV that can be used for children’s programs. The adult reading area with its gas fireplace and coffee corner is the perfect place to sit with a book, magazine, or computer and enjoy the beautiful view across the field of the Lyme School and Town Hall. The library has wi-fi throughout the building, and the study tables have outlets and data ports giving patrons more options when they bring their own computers.

The staff areas are a vast improvement over the old building. There was no director’s office in the old library, and the staff members were competing for desk space and computers. The director’s office features windows on three sides, which maintains the ability to see what is happening in other areas of the library, but blinds can be drawn when privacy is needed or deadlines loom. The staff room is spacious and allows room for multiple staff members to work simultaneously processing and cataloging books, and there is also a small staff lounge that allows for eating lunch out of public view.

A welcome addition to the library is the Lyme Public Hall Archives. The archives are owned and maintained by the Lyme Public Hall Association. They were formerly housed in the basement of the Lyme Public Hall building located in Hamburg Cove, but this was not opti-
Below is a brief roundup highlighting just a few of the many events that libraries around the State of Connecticut planned to celebrate the 4th Annual Take Your Child to the Library Day:

At the Groton Public Library, approximately 180 folks helped celebrate the birthday of Stretch the giraffe. Children played Mo Willems themed party games before they sang “Happy Birthday” and had cake.

Kent Memorial Library: Despite being in temporary quarters because of our upcoming renovations, and even despite snow falling outside, we had a bang-up day for Take Your Child to the Library Day. We had lots of toddlers and babies - new future readers and program attendees. The Friends of the Library held a children’s book sale all day long, we had a Valentine wreath craft in the morning and in the afternoon a story time and introduction to the Chinese New Year preceded by free hot chocolate and cookies from a local Girl Scout troop.

The James Blackstone Memorial Library and Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library—both located in Branford, CT—have collaborated on Take Your Child to the Library Day for the past 3 years! This year we invited local authors to share their published works, talk about the writing process as well what it takes to get a book published. At the WWML local author Catherne Youngquist came to talk about The Three Billgoats Gruff and Mean Calypso Joe while author Jason Marchi and illustrator Ben Quesnel read their book The Growing Sweater. Both presenters provided interactive activities for kids of all ages.

Pequot Library’s Children’s Department was packed with families from morning until late afternoon as children participated in a range of activities--from Lego Block Hour, Toddler Building Time, Storyhours for ages 3-8, cake and cookies, crafts galore and of course, multiple up-close interactions with our real live bunny, Blossom. Pequot Library is in Southport, CT.

The Wallingford Public Library participated in 2015’s Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, February 7th by offering all children who stopped by throughout the day a free book to keep. We also had materials available for them to make a special bunny bookmark to use with their new book! This was a great outreach event for us, thanks in large part to Wallingford’s public school administrators who sent out our announcement to parents via their Twitter page.

At the New Canaan Library, the day began with a morning concert “Rockin’ & Reading with Pete the Cat” presented by musician
The Brookfield Library celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day with a Doughnuts with Dads story time in the morning, followed by two sessions of Life-Sized Candy Land where the kids were the pieces and enjoyed some sweets. Finally we had a visit from Horizon Wings with their Secret Life of Owls program. A lot of fun was had by all!

Ed Sweeney of Winsted displayed his model train at the Harwinton Public Library for Take Your Child to the Library Day. We had over 50 people visit the display. Ed is a member of the Torrington Area Model Railroaders, a group of railroad enthusiasts who travel throughout the region to watch real trains. They maintain model train layouts in a building in Torrington’s south end. One of the group’s missions is to share their hobby with others. That’s just what Ed did here in Harwinton.

At the West Hartford Library, we had a snowman themed story time and made paper plate snowman crafts.

The sounds of monkeys jumping on the bed, Drummer Hoff firing off his cannon and Little Bunny Foo Foo filled the Milford Public Library as over 90 enthusiastic voices sang along with Nappy’s Puppets. Nappy was even kind enough to show the audience the inner workings of his shadow puppet show! Finally able to get out of house after all of this snow, families then joined us in the children’s room for Legos, games and some good ol’ hanging out at the library.

At the Prospect Public Library’s Take Your Child to the Library Day, I had planned a big story time and craft program, but we had a building emergency of replacing our furnace and had to shut down. We were unexpectedly able to open, temporarily while parts came in, and this past Saturday, we had a good showing of parents, grandparents, caregivers and children come in! I set up an Open House/Drop In Craft program all day. It was a GREAT success! We all dreamed of warmer temperatures by making wooden boats and pinwheels, while the younger set cut and pasted and OF COURSE enjoyed the GLITTER! We all had great fun and everyone left with a smile and a TYCTL sticker!
At the **Killingly Public Library**, we had over 100 participants present for The Danny Magic show on Take Your Child to the Library Day. We also had families come to do a make and take valentine related project. A fun day was had by all!

Families visited the **Ridgefield Library** on Saturday to take part in a host of activities throughout the library. Everyone enjoyed a drop-in story time and the Just So Stories Puppet performance. Kid’s Tech Time provided hands-on STEAM activities for parents and children that included programmable Bee-Bot robots as well as Magna-Tiles and Contraptions for building all kinds of creative structures.

**Lyme Public Library** invited children and their families to visit their brand new building, and make a Valentine’s Day craft.

Magician Chick Kelman returned to the **Cheshire Public Library** to add some magic to our Bring Your Child to the Library Day celebration. It was an afternoon filled with magical tricks that entertained and amazed!

Activities at the **Rockville Public Library** included a visit from Allan’s Angels Therapy Dogs, a presentation of “Fur, Feathers and Scales” from the Lutz Children’s Museum, and face painting.

Children celebrated Valentine’s Day and Take Your Child to the Library Day at **Norwalk Public Library’s South Norwalk Branch** by stopping in to create pop-up Valentine’s Day cards, and to design bookmarks and noodle necklaces for themselves or loved ones. They also participated in a "love"ly scavenger hunt.

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**Killingly**

**Cheshire**

**Lyme**

**Rockville**

**South Norwalk**
Enthusiasm and word of mouth took the place of traditional publicity and top down marketing. We feel it is this local, personal approach that continues to generate excitement and increased participation.

Now, children’s librarians are a flexible bunch (and not just our ability to criss-cross-apple-sauce on a storytime carpet square). We quietly espouse new technologies, ideas, and initiatives while retaining beloved traditions. But no one could have predicted how quickly librarians would adopt Nadine’s idea. Take Your Child to the Library Day went viral and not only in Connecticut. Soon we had new library friends all over the US and in Canada and around the globe. Spread only through listservs, emails, a Facebook page, and a blog, the idea caught on and grew year after year. Enthusiasm and word of mouth took the place of traditional publicity and top down marketing. We feel it is this local, personal approach that continues to generate excitement and increased participation. Looking back, here are a few milestones that show how Take Your Child to the Library Day has grown and changed.

**Year One, 2012.** Take Your Child to the Library Day probably would not be an international initiative without the artwork of Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. Approached in the first few weeks of planning by librarians in her area (Deb Verrillo from Northford), Wallace selflessly agreed to donate her art as the ‘face’ of the day. Her iconic rabbit collage, perfect down to the minute detail, continues to encourage families to visit their local libraries.

On February 4, 2012, the first celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day, 120 libraries participated in 17 states with 15,000 visitors. Linda Williams of the Connecticut State Library set up our surveys and our Flickr account to begin to gather data. Surveys were unfailingly positive, and libraries seemed excited about continued participation in the event. Immediately, we started brainstorming for 2013. The year 2012 was crucial for the administration of the initiative. Thanks to Martha Simpson of the Stratford Library, Take Your Child to the Library Day was accepted into the 2013 edition of Chase’s Calendar of Events. The Massachusetts Library Association agreed to partner with us for 2013. Recorded Books came on board to sponsor a participation raffle each January. We also applied to have a poster session at the American Library Association’s annual conference poster session, but our application was not accepted. We found it hilarious that the reason for the rejection was that the poster committee felt our event was too ‘established.’ After only a few months in existence, we knew we were just getting started.

And then we had some monumental good luck. Upstart (now Demco) agreed to create promotional materials for the event, including posters, bookmarks, and library card holders. They must have been thrilled that we walked in the door with Nancy Elizabeth Wallace’s art. And that’s not all we brought to the table. After talking to Upstart, it was clear that we would need administrative support and a place
HISTORY CONTINUED FROM P. 9

to donate sale proceeds. Enter Jennifer Keohane, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC). Not only is Jennifer imaginative and big-picture oriented, she also brought expertise in contracts and intellectual property rights. When all the ink had dried, Take Your Child to the Library Day became an initiative of the CLC. The CLC, along with Nancy Elizabeth Wallace’s beloved Read to Grow literacy organization, would receive any monies raised.

Year Two. 2013. Exhausted after months of administrative work, we were thrilled that Take Your Child to the Library Day again managed to avoid a major Connecticut snowstorm. In 2013, 274 libraries participated in 36 states, Canada, Germany, and the Caribbean with 26,500 library visitors.

Throughout the year and leading up to the 2014 celebration, CLC helped with publicity, and we were gaining footholds in other parts of the country. New York Library Association Youth Services Section (President Chrissie Morrison) became a partner, deciding to make the event a statewide initiative. More librarians agreed to promote the event in their states, including Trista Kunkel from Ohio who rallied her state tremendously. Our California representative, Cen Campbell, worked for BookBoard who donated free subscriptions to any participating library. At administrative meetings, Jennifer Keohane, Nadine Lipman, and Nancy Elizabeth Wallace began discussing ideas for 2014 and beyond.

Year Three. 2014. Take Your Child to the Library Day occurred on February 1, 2014. This year, 470 libraries participated in 42 states with 34,600 library visitors and 522 programs. Looking at the areas that participated, their total library service population represented over 9 million patrons. Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio were the top participating states. As of February 2014, we had eighteen state representatives promoting the initiative in their states.

Running a national initiative is mostly being willing to send a lot of emails and make new friends. We try to spotlight each library’s unique contributions to the day and keep on top of details. We were therefore so surprised and honored when the Connecticut Library Association presented us with the Faith Hektoen project award for Take Your Child to the Library Day. Really, we share it with every library around the world that speaks up for the importance of libraries in the life of children. We also share with them our Jan Gluz Cooperative Spirit Award from the Connecticut Library Consortium.

And yet, there is always still work to do. Thanks again to Martha Simpson, we approached the American Library Association’s division for children’s services (ALSC) to ask if they would consider endorsing the event. Several applications later, ALSC approved the endorsement request for the next two years. We were so pleased to have this national endorsement, especially because most of our volunteers are ALSC members.

With such increases in participation, registration and resources became the focus going into the 2015 celebration. CLC committed to creating a web landing page for the event, designing informational brochures, a logo, better image files of Nancy Elizabeth Wallace’s art, and a more organized participation campaign for Connecticut libraries. We added an online registration form along with the online survey to keep track of participants. We also transferred the historical record of participants from the blog to an online spreadsheet in an effort to be more efficient.

Year Four. 2015. “Color the map red” became our mutual obsession as we watched Christine Sarrazin from CLC update the Connecticut map with participating libraries for the 2015 event on February 7. The final tally, achieved just days before the 2015 celebration, was 150 Connecticut libraries participating in 144 of 165 Connecticut towns. This year, I found it entertaining to watch Jennifer and Christine get sucked into the mad rush of January registrations. They were emailing me from work and home with updates, and we all spent several snow days trying not to get snowed under with registrations. Their passion for their work and superlative customer service cannot be overstated. And the results? Well, they aren’t all in yet, but the number is somewhere around 700 participating libraries in 47 states, Canada, and Senegal. The full list of participants can be seen here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12_M_foTayVLvoudwQPSzTdpAHJfSQ1LSfjO7goWtswyM0/edit?usp=sharing

Gratitude. As we head into our fifth year, I have more debts of gratitude than I can ever repay or mention here. To the Connecticut libraries who saw Nadine’s original post and participated that first year in 2012, you inspire us. To everyone from CLA and the CT State Library, thank you for getting us started. To our library friends all over the state and the world, we love hearing your stories. And it goes without saying, thank you to Nancy Elizabeth Wallace, Jennifer, Christine, and everyone at the CLC. Take Your Child to the Library Day would not exist without you. We can’t wait to start emailing you frantically about 2016.

- Caitlin Augusta is a children’s librarian at the Stratford Library and co-coordinator of Take Your Child to the Library Day. In her spare time she assists with volunteer income tax assistance and the Jane Austen society.

Nadine Lipman (left) and Caitlin Augusta (right) at the 2014 CLA conference receiving the Faith Hektoen Outstanding Project Award for Take Your Child to the Library Day.
Nominations Sought for CLA Awards 2015

The Outstanding Librarian Award honors the career accomplishments of a librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his or her library and to the library profession. The following categories suggest areas in which the nominee may have rendered significant service: outstanding service in his/her field of expertise, e.g. reference, children’s services, administrative, or technical services; involvement in statewide leadership; encouragement of community/institutional support for the library. Preference will be given to nominees who have achieved in more than one area. The nominee must be a member of CLA.

The Special Achievement Award honors an individual who has implemented a significant project or initiated an innovative program during the past year. The achievement being honored should have had significant impact on the library, the community, or the library profession. This award may be given to the same individual more than once. The Awards Committee reserves the right to present more than one Special Achievement Award.

The Edith B. Nettleton Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding record of volunteer service to his or her library. This award is presented in the name of Edith B. Nettleton who served as Guilford Town Librarian from 1933-1978. After retiring, she returned to the Library as a volunteer, organizing the historical collection and serving for 35 years.

The Excellence in Public Library Service Awards honor public libraries that have provided an outstanding program or service to their communities. They are given in 2 population categories (15,000 and under or over 15,000). Nominations are judged on creativity and innovation, service to the community, leadership in creating model programs and programs which will affect the future of the library and its community.

The News Media Award honors an individual journalist or news organization for coverage of libraries and/or the principles of librarianship in an exemplary way during the past year. Exemplary media coverage can be evidenced through editorials, features, news reporting and/or special event reporting. Coverage may focus on library issues such as services to special populations and other appropriate topics. Copies of articles and other relevant material should be submitted with this nomination.

The Adeline Mix Award honors a full or part-time student enrolled in an approved graduate or undergraduate library education program, and enables the student to attend this year’s CLA Annual Conference. A grant of $250 will be awarded to cover conference registration, meals, and accommodations. Applicants must be a member of CLA, and the winner must agree to attend the Awards Ceremony and to write a brief article on his or her impressions of the conference for CLA Today. Applications may be no longer than two typed pages and must include the following information: status of current library school studies, education, degrees and honors, statement of need, and completion of a narrative describing how attendance at the conference will assist the candidate’s professional development.

The Intellectual Freedom Award recognizes an individual for the demonstration of extraordinary personal courage in the defense of intellectual freedom, or for the implementation of a successful and creative project developed to raise awareness of intellectual freedom issues, or for a published work on intellectual freedom.

The Support Staff Award honors an outstanding library assistant or support staff member.

Deadline for applying is February 27, 2015. Information and application available at ctlibraryassociation.org
People in the News

**Barbara Cangiano** has accepted the position of head of circ & ILL at the **Wallingford Public Library** and began on January 5, 2015. Barbara previously served in a variety of capacities at the Blackstone Memorial Library (Branford), most recently as the reference department supervisor. She was named a New York Times Librarian of the Year in 2004 and was inducted into the Branford Education Hall of Fame in 2012. She is also an active and experienced member of the LION consortium.

**Janis Franco**, reference and local history/genealogy Specialist librarian at **Meriden Library** retired as of 12/31/14. She worked in Meriden for 23 years but also worked part time in North Branford for many years as well. She fielded local genealogy and history questions from around the country and many foreign lands, via website each week.

**Shelton Library System**, Huntington Branch Library welcomes **Marissa Ciullo** as the new children’s librarian. Marissa began Jan. 2 at the branch library located in the Shelton Community Center. She comes to Shelton from Oxford where she was their children’s librarian for over five years. She joins **Marcia Austin** who has become the branch director. Marcia was the previous branch children's librarian for over 15 years.

**Vince Juliano**, a leader in the library community, is retiring from **Russell Library** after more than a decade of service. Read the detailed article on p. 2.

**Danny Richmond**, head of facilities and security at **Russell Library** retired in December 2014. Danny has seen the library through two major renovations and was involved in designing the new info dept and AV dept at Russell. He won the Will Manley Award in 2003 and has written disaster plans, and emergency security procedure manuals that are used in many Connecticut libraries. Danny has given presentations on safety and security in libraries and will continue to consult after his retirement.

**Pat Tully** has been appointed interim assistant library director at **Russell Library**. She has worked at the University of the Virgin Islands, Gettysburg College, Harvard University and, most recently, Wesleyan University. At Wesleyan she served as associate university librarian under Barbara Jones for 5 years, and on her retirement in 2009, was appointed university librarian.

**Robb Prchal** is the new head of facilities and security at the **Russell Library**. Robb has been working in the property management field and involved with facility management for over 15 years. He is originally from Haddam.

**Carole Fisher** is retiring this month from the **Cora J. Belden Library** in Rocky Hill. She has worked there for more than 25 years, first as co-director of the children’s department and more recently as programming director and reference librarian in adult services.

**Kathie Matsil**, head of the children’s department at the **Meriden Public Library**, is retiring in March after more than 25 years.

**Brittany Mullen** joined the library staff at the **Westbrook Public Library** as an assistant librarian this January. She is responsible for the young adult collection and services, library social media and web site, and helps in general library operations. Prior to joining the Westbrook Public Library staff, she was working at Hartford Public Library and had worked at Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in Coventry.

**Vince Juliano**, a leader in the library community, is retiring from **Russell Library** after more than a decade of service. Read the detailed article on p. 2.

**Kari Swanson** is joining the **Hilton C. Buley Library**, SCSU, on March 6 as the new serials management and cataloging librarian. She comes to us from Western CT State University where she was the systems librarian.

**Arthur Bargar**, media librarian at **Milford Public Library**, will be retiring in March after 32 years with the library.

CONTINUED ON P. 13
The Levi Coe Library in Middlefield has a new library director, Jess Lobner. Read an article about Jess.

At the Cheshire Public Library, Lucas Franklin is the new head of children’s services. He was promoted from the position of library technology coordinator. Kimberly White is the new children’s librarian. She will begin work here on March 9, 2015.

On Friday, January 30th, Bernadette Baldino celebrated 20 years as director of the Easton Public Library with a luncheon. It was attended by many patrons, town employees, former co-workers, and other library colleagues. Bernadette received flowers, gifts, cards, and well wishes from many people who have been influenced by her leadership, community service, and passion for her profession. Congratulations to you, Bernadette! The best is yet to come!

Barbara J. Hampton has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Brian Stockdale Award from PIUG, the Professional Information Users Group, in recognition of her work as the Patent and Trademark Resource Center Librarian at Sacred Heart University and her work in educating users about patent research. She will also be presenting at the USPTO 2015 Training Seminar in Alexandria, VA.

Submit all “people” news to Jennifer Datum at editor@ctlibrarians.org with “People” in the subject line. Items should be about librarians and library staff working in Connecticut. Items could include, but are not strictly limited to:

- Promotions, new library staff appointments
- Retirements
- Awards
- Obituaries

We will include a few lines in the newsletter – if there is more information or a related article, we can link to it. We can also include a photo. CLA Today publishes every other month. Upcoming publication dates are: 4/15/15, 6/15/15, 8/17/15, 10/15/15.
short answer, I guess, is that I’m still figuring it out as I go along! And maybe that’s the best advice I can offer: go with the flow, and let your teens guide the course. Whenever possible, I try to plan teen-driven projects, because they’re going to commit more time and energy to a project that they believe in. But every teen group is different. In fact, every meeting is different, because as the members change, so do their interests. So try new things, experiment, and don’t get too disheartened when an experiment doesn’t pan out. These are teens, after all. Working with them requires a lot of flexibility! Other than that, the best advice I can offer is: if you feed them, they will come. And when they come, they will eat everything. Leftovers do not exist!

What are some misconceptions about teens in the library?
I would love to say that all librarians in all libraries are welcoming to teens. But teenagers come with a certain level of noise and disruption, so there may still be a lingering misconception that teens don’t belong in the library. But that’s also a misconception about the library, itself. Traditionally, we think of libraries as quiet spaces for studious research. And while that’s still true in some respects, the library is also a vibrant, exciting hub for social activities and library programs and, just as importantly, a gateway to information. I think teens are more than just a transient population, caught in that chaotic space between the children’s desk and adult reference. They are also avid readers and tech-savvy consumers of information. And they are the next generation of library users—of college students, parents, political leaders, and maybe even librarians. I would like to think—or at least, I hope—that librarians today see that, and are trying to make their libraries more inviting places for teen patrons.

What (or who) inspired you to become a librarian?
Credit for my love of reading—and libraries—probably goes to my parents. When I was very little, my dad would read The Curious Little Kitten and other Little Golden Books to me before bed (sometimes the same book, over and over and over). When I was older, my mom and I took turns reading chapters of Little Women to each other, out loud. My parents also brought me to our public library from an early age. And since I grew up in East Haven, Hagaman Library was the first library I visited as a little girl. I feel like I grew up here. So I’m really glad to have the opportunity to (hopefully!) inspire a similar love of reading in the next generation.

What books are on your nightstand now waiting to be read?
As I’m sure you can guess, there are a lot of YA books on my nightstand. That’s one of the best parts of an active teen group: there’s always someone giving me book suggestions! One of the best new YA books I’ve read recently was The Rhinstmatist by Brandon Sanderson. I’m also very impressed with the work of Laini Taylor and Erin Bow. I just started reading Ms. Bow’s second book, Sorrow’s Knot, and her perfectly crafted prose melt on your tongue like chocolate. And let me just say, if you knew how much I love chocolate, you’d understand how high a compliment that is!”

Hagaman Library’s teen services librarian, Sarah Mallory (middle), poses for a picture with members of the Hagaman Teen Advisory Group (HTAG). HTAG was recently selected as one of only fifteen groups from around the country to participate in the Teens’ Top Ten, a national book panel. Right to left, top to bottom: Sarah Moffett, Nicole Douglas, Olivia Iasparra, Miranda Garcia, David Casner Jr., Malik Harris, Megan Poulin, Shivani Patel, Harsh Patel, Bruno Lieta, Sandy Nguyen, Emily Cardenas, Ashley Tatro, teen librarian Sarah Mallory, Mawj Al Abboodi, Natalia Wiszniewski, Francesca Caruso, Kayla Smith, Jayleen Piekarski, Cameron Cordaway, Isabella Pointer, Nick Perry, Katie Pierce, and Courtney Nixon.
It’s a NELLS Year

NELLS is the New England Library Leadership Symposium. The purpose 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. First held in 2003, subsequent NELLS events have taken place in 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2013. The next NELLS program will take place August 3-7, 2015 at Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, MA.

NELLS students will be library professionals, paraprofessionals, or volunteers (trustees, friends, etc.) in mid-career (3-15 years experience in or with libraries). The attendees may be recommended by someone or may make their own application for this leadership training. Each student must be a member of his or her state library association or NELA in order to apply. Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by March 20, 2015. More information is available at the NELA website.

I have participated in NELLS twice, once as a participant and once as a mentor. I can’t stress enough how career and life-changing this experience was for me. Not only was I able to learn and develop important leadership skills, I also met amazing librarians from all over New England who are now both respected colleagues and life-long friends. The five-day immersive format allowed plenty of time for self-reflection and the impact on my career momentum each time I returned was significant and eventually lead me to move into my first directorship position. The enthusiastic discussions about the future of librarianship and how effective leaders can facilitate the growth and viability of libraries confirmed and reignited my passion for my chosen field. This passion has continued to keep me actively engaged in the library field through positions on both the Connecticut and New England Library Association Boards.

From past NELLS participant Beth Crowley, Director of E.C. Scranton Memorial Library in Madison.