Rally at the State Capitol

It was standing room only on Wednesday, April 15, as over 150 library supporters gathered at the state Legislative Office Building to show their support for Connecticut Libraries. Wearing red and holding signs, the crowd responded enthusiastically to the panel of speakers detailing how the proposed cuts would affect Connecticut libraries. Also speaking were several state legislators, including Senator Ted Kennedy Jr., who showed the audience his library card. Read excerpts of testimony, given at an earlier date, on p. 6.
Candidates for the CLA Board

Candidate for Vice President/President Elect

Karen Jensen
Director, James Blackstone Memorial Library

For the past two years, I have served on the CLA board as Procedures Chair, a position which has helped me learn a great deal about the Association’s history, mission and values. I have met many incredible leaders who consistently set the bar high in our libraries; I am continually impressed and inspired by the innovative work I see happening. CT has some of the country’s wealthiest, and also poorest, communities—the needs of our libraries are as different and as important as those demographics suggest. CLA is our association, and I hope that our members will continue to see the value in being involved—as we work together, we can accomplish even greater things. CLA does an amazing job at keeping us all informed, offering the training that library staff needs to succeed in the 21st century, providing leadership development opportunities and advocating against censorship and for our profession. I am very proud to be nominated for Vice President/President Elect and I look forward to contributing to the future success of CLA.

Candidates for Recording Secretary

Maria Bernier
LSTA Coordinator, CT State Library

In August 2014, I became the LSTA Coordinator for the Connecticut State Library. I’m happy to return to working in CT, where I began my library career as an archivist at Mystic Seaport for twelve years. In my new job, I see myself as a combination talent scout and job coach, seeking out likely grant applicants and supporting them through the process of managing a project. CLA takes on a similar role in the state by supporting library employees in their professional growth and providing ample opportunities for networking. Without trying to curry votes, I can say truthfully that I’ve been impressed by the smart, talented Connecticut librarians I’ve met so far. I’d like to be CLA’s Recording Secretary so I can learn more about what’s happening throughout the state as well as contribute to the profession.

Sunnie Lovelace
I’ve been passionate about public libraries ever since I was a little bookworm enjoying the stacks in my local chil-
Are you ready?

The 124th Annual CLA Conference is coming up fast!

Registration ends April 20, 2015.

Join the conversation:
Follow the conference on Twitter and add to the conference conversation! @CLA_conference #ctlibs15

Get conference details in the palm of your hand:
We have a mobile app this year! Plan your own personal schedule, check out the floor plans, connect with other attendees, set alerts, tweet, and more! Download the ‘ConfPlus’ App from App Store or Android Market, or simply scan the QR code for your device.

Message from the President

By Dawn LaValle, CLA President 2014-2015

Last year when I was asked to fill in for departing CLA Vice-President/President Elect David Boudinot, I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to work with the leadership of CLA and the membership as a whole and get to know more of the greater library community that I do not often get to meet in my State Library capacity. I was not disappointed by my experience working with dedicated professionals who selflessly volunteer their time to develop programs, events and share their expertise and love of librarianship with their fellow librarians. Recently, we have come up against some challenges, but the response from our Board and the CT library community has been immediate and effective.

One of my candidacy statements: “The future of libraries is truly in our hands and we need to ensure that CT librarians have the training, resources and support to transform libraries to better serve our communities” fostered the idea to implement a strategic advocacy plan to provide CT librarians with the training, resources and support to effectively advocate at a grass roots level for not only their libraries but the librarian profession as a whole. The CLA Legislative Committee began to discuss the idea of hiring a strategic communications and advocacy consultant to help us formulate a sustainable advocacy plan. Little did we know that this idea would soon develop into an urgent strategic advocacy plan to counter the potentially devastating cuts to statewide library services.

At the April 2nd Board Meeting, the board approved a motion to contract for the strategic advocacy services of Libby Post, President and CEO of Communications Services. CLA is partnering with CLC, CSL/DLD (for advocacy training), ACLB and FOCL to provide a strategic advocacy framework both in the short term and long term to include training, a toolkit, and other resources to enable each and every librarian, board member and Friend in Connecticut to effectively advocate at the grass roots level for their libraries and the profession as a whole. While no one could have predicted the necessity of this action, it is undeniable that it could not have come at a more important time.

I would like to commend the entire Legislative Committee, especially Carl Antonucci, Chair; Jennifer Keohane, CLC Executive Director; Beth Crowley, Vice President/President Elect; Marge Ruschau, Editorial Committee and Jen Datum Newsletter/Website Editor for working tireless extended hours with Libby Post to come up with a short term advocacy plan under very challenging circumstances. While we are still refining the plan with the help of so many librarians, we have been able to bring critical attention to the budget issues facing CT libraries. My deepest appreciation goes out to each and every librarian who has taken up the cause to ensure the message to #FundCTLibraries gets out to the CT community.

“Being challenged in life is inevitable, being defeated is optional.”
— Roger Crawford

Dawn LaValle is Director of Library Development at the CT State Library
Kathie Matsil retired as director of the Tomie dePaola Children Room at the Meriden Public Library on April 3, after 33 years there. She and her husband, Kevin, will be moving to North Carolina where she has already become a member of a library. She has also located the grammar school closest to where they will live and plans to volunteer to read to children there. She said she also hopes to travel as much as possible, and not just in the summers as they did when her husband was teaching. But before she leaves, Kathie answered a few questions about her work.

How did you first get into library work?
I was at the time teaching at a nursery school. There was someone who was working in the children’s room [at the Meriden Public Library] and recommended that I apply. I started working on a Tuesday night once a week and, as all part-timers, you worked Tuesday night and whatever hours they would give you. Slowly my hours built up until I finally did get 20 hours. I started out as a page, then worked into a clerk’s position part time, then into an LTA position full time. And then it was recommended that I go for my MLS degree, which I did. I have a teaching degree in what, at the time it was an early childhood degree. I was certified to teach preschool through Grade 2. I don’t even think they offer that anymore. And I taught kindergarten-first grade.

What are some things you did when you first started in the library that you’re still doing today?
Everything, actually. I worked circulation desk; I worked reference; I worked tech services. I’ve always done story hours and programming. That’s really increased. And helping patrons; I love working with children, and parents actually and teachers. I love getting to know what the teachers are working on in school so that we could collaborate to make sure that we had the proper materials for the kids for their assignments.

I received an American Library [Association] award for teen programming for our computer center we had.

I also got a grant from the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation to set up the learning diversity resource center. It’s a multi-faceted center with materials about learning disabilities such as autism, dyslexia, Down syndrome, ADHD and dysgraphia. We have books on a variety of LD disabilities as well as parenting material, as well as for people getting their teaching degree. We have a lot of resources for people setting up learning centers and also home schooling. Home schooling has definitely increased and, in a lot of cases it’s parents with children who need an alternate way of learning. They don’t fit the mold for public schools, or even private schools for that matter, because of their various disabilities.

We were the first library in the state, probably the second or the third in the country, to have a learning diversity resource center.

What are some things you have accomplished that you’re most proud of?
I received an American Library Association award for teen programming for our computer center we had.

CONTINUED ON P. 11
Charity Begins at...the Library?
By Kimmerle Balentine, Groton Public Library

Adults looking for volunteer opportunities usually have a world of options. But what if you wanted to teach your five-year-old how to give back to the community? Where could your nine-year-old donate their time and money? The Groton Public Library has found the answer in the creation of their Junior Friends group. The group was founded as a way for children to actively support the Library and the community through volunteering, fundraising, and sponsoring events that involve and inspire young people.

Established in November of 2013, the Junior Friends of the Groton Public Library has almost 70 members from communities including Groton, Pawcatuck, Mystic, Stonington, New London, and Norwich. To join the Junior Friends, children ages 12 and younger must pay a $1.00 annual membership fee. In return, they receive a membership card, a “Library Helper” pin, and invites to all the Junior Friends’ events. The group generally has three events a month to accommodate families’ varying schedules. They hold fundraisers such as bake sales and community dine-out nights and Library Helper Days to work on projects that assist the staff like craft prep and cleaning. At a recent Library Helper Day, the children each “adopted” a shelf to keep alphabetized and tidy. They also host monthly “Crafting for a Cause” events in which they make crafts but are not allowed to keep them. The crafts instead are donated to nursing homes, veterans’ groups, and home-bound individuals.

One of the group’s favorite projects was organizing a community-wide book drive. After the children collected gently-used children’s books, they purchased a bookshelf with money they earned, decoupaged it, and delivered it filled with the books to a low-income housing complex. They also held a pet food drive to benefit the Groton Pet Food Locker.

The Junior Friends meet twice a year for a Membership Drive and Social. It is at these meetings that the children vote on projects to undertake and what to purchase with the money they earn. They recently purchased a highway sign to direct people to the Library because the Groton Public Library didn’t have one. The children are particularly proud of that purchase because once the sign is installed, they will see a tangible result of their hard work whenever they drive by it.

In short, volunteerism needn’t be reserved for the older generation. If you’re looking for a way to bring young people into the Library, give them an opportunity to voice their ideas about children’s programs and services, and encourage their charitable giving and volunteerism, then consider starting a Junior Friends group. For more information, contact Kimmerle Balentine at 860-441-6750 or kbalentine@groton-ct.gov. ♦
Testimony

Ken Wiggin, State Librarian
The proposed budget represents nearly a 30% cut in the State Library’s budget. It eliminates 5 long standing statewide programs and carries forward the 5% rescissions for most of the remaining line items. In addition to zero funding, Governor’s Bill No. 942, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION would repeal the statutes for all but one of the programs.

Beth Crowley, E.C. Scranton Memorial Library
Last week I was reminded that the programs libraries provide can mean much more than we know to our residents. A gentleman approached me and mentioned he heard there was a wonderful concert at my library last month. He went on to tell me that he is looking forward to the next one as he lost his wife a year ago and attending concerts will be his way of coming out of his grief. While the concerts and lectures we offer are always free for attendees, the cost to provide them can range from $100-$500. Last year my library received a $500 grant from the Connecticut Humanities that allowed us to offer a lecture series on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. In 15 years as a librarian, it has been my experience that programming budgets suffer when times are tough. The availability of outside grants to support these life enhancing services is crucial.

Jennifer Keohane, CLC
The Connecticut Library Consortium currently receives $332,500 from the state as an operating grant. Last year, that funding enabled us to help over 800 Connecticut libraries realize more than 7.1 million dollars of savings on critical books, media, databases, materials, supplies, training, and more. We - and they - think that is a good investment for the citizens of Connecticut.

Richard Conroy, Essex Library Association
I was extremely distressed to learn that the Governor’s budget proposal includes drastic cuts to programs and services that are vitally important to Connecticut’s public libraries. For example, though the Connecticard grant is a small, but important, component of the Essex Library’s operating income, it makes a critical difference for many other libraries in less affluent towns with a large population of underserved patrons. More importantly, that program enables any Connecticut resident with borrowing privileges at their local library to use their card at any other public library in the State either in person or through an inter library loan. In effect, it has created an enormous, statewide, shared collection of millions of books, DVDs and other materials that anyone with a library card can borrow free of charge.

Sheri Szymanski, Stratford Library
The impact of the savings negotiated by the CLC on our total budget is enormous! Without these discounts, the Stratford Library and libraries all over Connecticut will be forced to use our limited staff resources to negotiate individual contracts and discounts with vendors. The Stratford Library and libraries all over Connecticut will lose purchasing power. The Stratford Library and libraries all over Connecticut will be forced to cut services that we provide to residents from all walks of life.

Anita R. Barney, The Brookfield Library
In Brookfield, the savings negotiated by CLC on just book and media discounts alone, with the free shipping, almost doubles our materials budget. Brookfield’s savings with the CLC-negotiated discounts in FY 13-14 totaled $35,602.47. Yes, we could bargain with each vendor, but individual discounts would be less than half of this. Multiply Brookfield’s savings by the number of libraries in the state, and the funding for CLC is more than justified.
Connecticut Library Association Support Staff (CLASS) Salary Survey Report, 2014  by Sandy Rosado, MLS

This report is based on similar reports by the same author for previous salary surveys. See:


Background
In the fall of 1998, the Connecticut Library Association Support Staff section (CLASS), in conjunction with the Connecticut State Library, surveyed libraries throughout the state in regards to library worker salaries and benefits. The survey process was improved and repeated in 2003, 2008, and again in 2014. (The results of the first three surveys are available online at http://ctlibraryassociation.org/content.php?page=Archived_Documents.)

The purpose of the surveys was to get information on salaries for library workers who were not working in a position that requires the MLS (Masters of Library Science) or equivalent degree. Many libraries are interested in this information for setting competitive salaries in their region, and workers wonder if they are being paid equivalently to others in their field. CLASS also hoped to someday use the survey information to initiate a minimum wage schedule for library workers, as CLA has done for entry-level MLS positions – this was accomplished as of 7/1/2012! The minimum salary guidelines can be found online at http://www.ctlibrarians.org/?page=Jobs#jobsCLAmin.

In the fall of 2013, CLASS decided it was time to re-survey library workers, in an effort to survey approximately every 5 years. Similar to the 2008 survey, the survey followed the model of requesting information directly from support staff workers (rather than requesting salary data from the library itself). This allows for questions to be asked about education level, number of years of service to the library and the profession, and other comments that we wanted to have on file. Also as in 2008, this survey was conducted online through software available from the CT Library Association. Participants were solicited through various email lists and direct email messages. The response due date was 1/21/14.

Returns
We received 209 usable returns out of 215 e-returns. (In general, surveys were not “usable” if they did not include the hourly salary information, or otherwise included too little information to count.) In 2008 there were 456 usable returns out of 587 received electronically. Thus we had a much smaller number of responses to work with this time. Although various email messages were sent out requesting participation, in 2008 we had also mailed hard copies of the survey to library directors, asking them to solicit input from their staff members. Perhaps next time this would be prudent, considering the drop in response rate. Note: the responses totaled 249 in 1998 and 456 (coincidentally!) in 2003.

Returns came from all types of libraries. Based on the library types identified on the survey, most responses came from public libraries, whether small, medium or large (a total of 152, or 73%). The remainder of the responses came from academic libraries (42), school libraries (8), and “other” (7). The largest drop in response rate from the 2008 survey was in the areas of public libraries and school libraries.

The report in its entirety can be viewed by clicking here.

Connect with CLA
CLA has a new, public Facebook page. Like us at: facebook.com/ctlibraryassociation

We also have a new Twitter account. Follow us at: twitter.com/CTLibAssoc
Suzanne Elliot: Professional Career Summary and Retirement Plans

Suzanne has 43 years of professional experience beginning with a reference librarian position at the University of Michigan Graduate Library. She has been a librarian in Connecticut since 1974, holding increasingly responsible positions at the Norwich, New London, Groton, Wethersfield, and Middletown public libraries.

During her 13-year Groton Public Library tenure Suzanne was directly involved in a wide variety of public relations efforts and community outreach projects in addition to heading up long-range planning and information technology installation initiatives. She also led major fundraising and marketing campaigns and was actively involved in Town labor negotiations. She served as the Supervisor of Library Services managing adult and young adult collections, programs and staff. While at Groton, Suzanne was instrumental in the library’s $2.7 million renovation and expansion, coordinating and implementing all phases of a successful referendum campaign.

From December 1998 through October 2001 Suzanne served as Director of the Wethersfield Public Library. Under her stewardship, the library saw substantial and sustainable increases in its operating budgets, developed a long-term strategic plan, formulated a facilities expansion plan, and was awarded a State Public Library Construction Grant. But perhaps the greatest testimony to her leadership was the dramatic increase in library services and use, only possible through the passionate and effective advocacy for the library she engendered.

As Community Services Librarian at Russell Library since 2005, Suzanne managed public relations, publicity and cultural and informational programming for all ages. She fostered collaborative endeavors with many community agencies, arts organizations, and area colleges including Wesleyan University. Her passion was producing world class concerts, which consistently attracted from 70 to well over 100 people, many of whom could not afford or access live, top caliber entertainment. Suzanne also managed the multimedia marketing of these events along with approximately 400 other programs and services generated annually by all departments at Russell Library.

During retirement, Suzanne is looking forward to oil painting, playing the piano, designing clothes, dancing, travel, advocating for mental health services, and spending more time with family and friends, especially her precious granddaughters, Madeline (7) and Emilia (6) in Pennsylvania.
**People in the News**

**Edith Evangeliste** retired from the Cheshire Public Library in January 2015. She was a Reference Librarian here for more than 16 years. Our new Reference Librarian is **Kathleen Larkin**. Our new Library Technology Coordinator is **Emily Versteeg**. Our new Children’s Librarian is **Kimberly White**.

**Robert Simon**, director of Canton Public Library, retired in January. Read an article featuring Rob from the Hartford Courant.

**Eric Werthmann** is the new director of the Woodbridge Town Library. A Connecticut native, Eric returns after serving as the director of the Acorn Public Library District in suburban Chicago. Prior to holding the position of director, he served as Adult Services Librarian in the same library district.

The Prospect Library is proud to announce that **Alessandra Petrino** has been hired as Prospect Library’s new Assistant Director/Children’s Librarian. Formerly Ms. Petrino worked at the Danbury Public Library and New Fairfield Public Library.

**Carole Fisher** has retired from Rocky Hill after 26 years. **Lindsay Riordan**, formerly of Russell Library in Middletown, has been appointed Reference Librarian at the Cora J. Belden Library.

**Gene Grass** is retiring from Southington Library & Museum where she currently serves as Assistant Director/Head of Reference. Gene has worked at Southington Library for over 20 years. **Michelle Lord** has been promoted from Head of Lend to the position of Assistant Director/Head of Reference.

**Elizabeth Joseph** of the Ferguson Library in Stamford was honored with a Movers & Shakers 2015 nomination from Library Journal. Read the article here.

**Keith Stetson**, Collection Development Librarian, Fairfield University, will retire June 30, 2015 after 25 years of service.

**Martha Simpson**, Head of Children’s Services at the Stratford Library Association, will be one of the featured authors at the Author Night Event on April 23, 2015 at the North Haven Barnes & Noble store. Martha will be presenting a Mother’s Day storyline and signing copies of her picture book, *What Not to Give Your Mom on Mother’s Day*. The event is from 5:00-9:00 pm, and Martha’s program will begin at 6:00 pm. The store is located at 470 Universal Drive, North Haven, CT.

Democracy in the Making: The Open Forum Lecture Movement by **Russell Library** Director, **Arthur Meyers**, has just been published in paperback.

After directing the public libraries in Suffield, Newington, and Westport since 1974, **Maxine Bleiweis** will be retiring on June 30, following her acceptance of the Charlie Robinson Award for innovative leadership at the 2015 American Library Association conference. She will be available for consulting and can be reached at maxine.bleiweis@gmail.com.

**Guilford Smith Memorial Library** has a new Teen Librarian, **Chelsea Holland**. She has recently replaced Shea King, who went back to school. Chelsea lives in Hebron and got her bachelor's degree in history from Eastern CT State University in 2012 and then her MLS from University College Dublin in Ireland last year. Her knowledge and enthusiasm has made her a wonderful addition to our library staff!

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: 6/15/15, 8/17/15, 10/15/15, 12/15/15.
Kathy McAfee — “Presenting Your Personal Best”

By Ellen G. Cartledge

Motivational speaker, author, and executive presentation coach Kathy McAfee is “America’s Marketing Motivator.”

She will be talking on “Presenting Your Personal Best” at this year’s CLA Conference on Monday morning (April 27) at 10:30am.

Kathy, who has presented at CLA for three of the last four years, delivers education, inspiration, and motivation to hundreds of executives and professionals every year. Clients rely on Kathy’s expertise in marketing, communication, personal growth, business development, networking, and women’s self-defense.

In her role as executive presentation coach, Kathy helps clients build confidence, credibility, self-motivation and influence. Her laser coaching and robust training programs enable professionals of all disciplines to better engage their audiences, showcase their talents and move people to action.

An award-winning blogger and prolific writer, Kathy writes weekly networking tips and other social commentary. She is the recipient of the 2014 Best Blog of the Year by the Women in Business and the Professions World Awards.

Kathy is the author of the book Networking Ahead for Business: The Best Vehicle to Get More Customers, Make More Friends and Create More Opportunities for Yourself and Others. (2010). She is also a co-contributor to the book The Ultimate Guide to Solo and Small Firm Success with attorney/author Renee Berman. She has also authored several audio training programs, including Stand and Deliver, and Perfect Your Pitch.

A graduate of Stanford University in Economics, Kathy is a member of the National Speakers Association, a board member for the YWCA of the Hartford Region and a volunteer leader for Soroptimist International of the Americas, a women’s service organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls.

Founder of a Business Leadership Company
In 2005, Kathy McAfee founded Kmc Brand Innovation, LLC to help business leaders and career professionals better leverage their talent, energy, and influence to create positive changes in the world. She is driven to create opportunities for others.

Founder of a Women’s Professional Development Company
Kathy McAfee co-founded Power Up Your Professional Image, a professional development company focused on helping career-minded women gain an edge in the workplace by improving their professional image, bolstering their self confidence, and expanding their business network.

A Resilient Fighter
Kathy is an ovarian cancer survivor and thriver. She also holds a second degree black belt in the martial art of Tae Kwon Do and teaches self defense workshops for women and girls. She and her husband, Byron, are originally from California and have resided in Connecticut for more than 10 years.
What are some things that you've seen change in libraries?
Obviously technology. When I started, I'll never forget it; I started my master's degree, became pregnant with my third child, and started entering the materials into our brand new computer system, book by book.

And I find that unfortunately it seems as if some of the reading levels aren’t as high as they used to be. It seems like a lot of the books that kids read 10 or 15 years ago seem too long and too hard for some of today's kids.

What is your connection with author/illustrator Tomie dePaola?
(DePaola sent Matsil a framed, inscribed drawing of his most famous character, Strega Nona, for her retirement.)
Our former children's library director, Marcia Trotta, had him as grand marshal of a parade on his birthday. Being a former Meriden resident [and native], he's been generous enough to come back from time to time to do programming. I requested the library board name the children's room in honor of him because he's given so much to the community.

Any time he comes he never charges us a fee and whenever books have been sold he's donated the funds to the children's room.

We (her husband and their children) have gotten to know him quite well and we've gone up to his home [in New Hampshire.] He's just a sweetheart.

Mental Health First Aid
By Christy Billings, Russell Library

I attended a two Part Mental Health First Aid class presented by Lisa Mason, Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council & Jennifer DeWitt, Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council. As stated in the book, “The Mental Heath First Aid USA Manual is a blueprint for providing comfort, promoting recovery, and helping to reduce distress related to stressful situations…In the course of everyday life, you are more likely to encounter a person in an emotional or mental health crisis than someone having a heart attack. MHFA teaches a 5 step action plan to offer initial help to anyone with the signs of a mental health crisis and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social or self-help care.” While not a library sponsored program, I felt it was invaluable to those of us working in libraries.

I was surprised by the wide range of occupations of other participants. They ranged from office staff at doctor's offices, to City Hall clerks, to High School Coaches and Manufacturing workers. Over the course of eight hours split into two sessions, we learned how to recognize a mental health emergency and assess if the person in crisis was in need of immediate intervention, or professional help, or other support strategies. We covered Suicide Assessment and Prevention and were given phone numbers for people in crisis. Because I think this was one of the most valuable parts of the class I am including them here. In Middlesex County, for adults not needing 911 but having an issue that needs attention, Ct Dept of Mental Services (860) 344-2100. For Teens, dial 211. In most cases, someone will be sent to speak with the person and assist them in getting the services they need. We also were given two National Suicide Prevention Hotlines, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-(TALK) 8255 and the Hope Line 1-800-(SUICIDE) 784-2433. There is also a Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255. I plan on putting these numbers in my cell phone, hopefully I never need to pass them along, but in case the need for them ever arises.

We covered a wide swath of topics such as the causes of depression, panic attacks, effective non-judgmental listening skills, psychosis, (bi-polar disorder) and substance abuse. I cannot begin to effectively convey the knowledge that we learned in such a short space. Over the course of two weeks, I learned how difficult it is to try and survive with mental illness. I did not fully understand some of the struggles faced by those suffering and by their family members. As our instructors said, people do not bring casseroles or rally around people who are dealing with these issues like they do when someone has been diagnosed with cancer. It was a view into ways of assisting people by assessing for risk of suicide, listening non-judgmentally, giving reassurance and information, encouraging seeking profession help and other support strategies.

To find a class available in CT:
http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/take-a-course/find-a-course/
More than 100 countries will participate in World Book Day on April 23, encouraging people to explore the pleasures of reading. At Social Security, we invite you to explore our online library anytime to curl up for a good read with our electronic publications.

In our virtual library, you can learn more about Social Security, our programs, and what our programs mean to you and your family. Browse through our collection of publications at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs). Search our online catalog by typing a title or topic in the library’s search box, and sort your results by a publication’s date, number, or title. Many of our publications are available in up to 17 different languages.

Our library also gives you access to audio recordings of our publications.

While the fastest and most convenient way to get one of our publications is by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs), if you prefer a good, old-fashioned printed copy, you can call us at 410-965-2039 and ask us to mail you a copy.

Social Security has been serving the American public since 1935, the same year that paperback pioneer Penguin Books released its first title. The difference is that, now, the publications we provide are available in more than just paper form. Whether you prefer print, electronic, audio, or an alternative format, Social Security has a good read for you.

Don’t have a lot of time for reading? Don’t worry. Our publications are a much easier read than Tolstoy’s classic, *War and Peace*. We write in plain language so that the information is easy to understand.

When you’re going through a life-changing event and need our services, having access to information on every one of our benefit programs will help make your next chapter one for the books!
Candidate for Treasurer Elect

Diana Deedy
Branford Library, Haddam

I am running for Treasurer Elect to ensure fiscal responsibility and stability during these challenging economic times for the library profession.

Region 1 Representative

Sue Dowdell

I would be honored to serve as the Region One representative on the CLA Board of Directors. Having been a founding member of our local Friends group, a library board trustee, an elementary school classroom teacher and middle school computer teacher, a school library media specialist, a reference librarian at an academic library, and now as the director of the Beacon Falls Public Library, I will bring a wide variety of perspectives to discussions about the future of libraries in our state. I believe, as do we all, that libraries are the hub of our community and it is up to us librarians to identify the needs of our patrons to bring them the best possible library services. You are the patrons of the Connecticut Library Association and I will do my utmost to serve your needs.

Region 4 Representative

Kymberlee Powe

My name is Kymberlee Powe and I am the Children’s and Teen Librarian at the Easton Public Library, and I am running for Region 4 Representative. In addition to serving as a librarian in the Easton community I am also the Chair of the CLC Newbie Roundtable, the new Co-Chair of the Fairfield County Young Adult Roundtable, and the Co-Chair of the CLA Children’s Division. It may seem like I have my hands full, but I love staying active not only in my personal life, but in my work life. I would relish in the opportunity to serve as the CLA Region 4 representative and learn more about the many accomplishments of the library community in my area.

Candidates for Region 5 Representative

Christy Billings

My name is Christy Billings from the Russell Library in Middletown. I have served the previous term as Region Rep 5 on the CLA Board, and hope to continue doing so. During the past few years, libraries have seen many changes. As the Rep, it has been my privilege to inform the libraries in Region 5 about CLA issues and programs.

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

I feel fortunate to have worked in both a large urban library system and a mid-sized suburban library, as well as many hours logged at very small branch libraries. I’ve been a reference librarian, a teen services librarian, and now I’m the head of a busy children’s department. Working in different departments, with a variety of age groups has been a wonderful learning experience and I’ve absolutely loved each one of the roles I’ve inhabited. My passion as a librarian is to make sure the community I serve receives excellent library services and enjoys meaningful library programs that enrich lives. I love encouraging people to read great books, but more than that, I love to help people succeed, whether that be through finding what they’re looking for, discovering something new, or making deeper connections within their community.

As I look to become more involved with our statewide professional community, the role of Recording Secretary seems to be a good fit for the skills I bring to the table. Should you elect me to serve in this capacity, you can count on my strong organizational skills, along with my continued enthusiasm for our profession, to help assure that CLA meetings run smoothly and that Association information is shared effectively. I look forward to being able to help in this way and being able to give back to a profession that has already given so much to me.
Each month I touch base with all of the Region 5 libraries for information on programs, staffing and any other library issues. My central location and proximity to the Middletown Library Service Center means I am able to be very involved. I have been working at the Russell Library for 13 years, and am very passionate about the issues facing libraries in the future. Please vote for me as Region 5 Rep for CLA.

Scott Brill
As a recent member of CLA, I am ready and excited to use my skills and ideas in the position of Region 5 Rep. I have worked at two Region 5 libraries, currently as a Library Assistant in our wonderful Children’s Department at The Milford Public Library since 2010 and previously, I worked circulation at the Huntington Branch Library in Shelton. I have a BA in Political Science from Gettysburg College and a Masters in Theatre from Emerson College. I also served for almost 10 years on the Executive Board and as President of the Westport Community Theatre, (a non-profit 501c Corporation), attending and for a year heading monthly meetings of this vibrant and thriving theatre group.

I look forward to contacting the dynamic and diverse libraries in Region 5 and reporting monthly on their programs, issues and important news. Not only do I see this as an opportunity to highlight the important work of the Region 5 libraries but to educate myself further about each of the 35 libraries in Region 5 as well as hear and learn from the reports from the other Region Representatives. In this time when state funding for the library system is in peril in Connecticut, I feel it is deeply important for all CLA members, and indeed all those who work in libraries, to know as much about the vital work, the exciting programs and positive public experience that happens in the Connecticut Library System every day. Armed with this knowledge, we hopefully can always make our voices heard over those who may see our libraries just as a line item to be reduced or eliminated.

As Region 5 Rep, I will bring my enthusiasm, experience and readiness to share all the essential work being done in Region 5 Libraries. I hope I can count on your vote.

NELA Representative

Gail Hurley
I consider myself to be a real New Englander when it comes to the library world. While a Massachusetts resident, I have worked in Connecticut libraries for the past 25 years and received my Masters in Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) from the University of Rhode Island (1994).

From 1990-2000 I worked for the Capitol Region Library Council where I had the opportunity to work with and get to know the staffs of the libraries in the Greater Hartford region. I also participated in the Partnership of Connecticut Libraries task force which let me learn about and work with the other regional networks in CT. I did part-time work in the 90s at Enfield Public Library and Asuntuck Community College and also taught a LTA class at Capitol Community College.

In 2000 I had an opportunity to work with libraries of all types on a state level rather than regional as Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator for the Connecticut State Library, and have been there ever since. My responsibilities include working with libraries to contribute their holdings to reQuest as well as working with libraries on digitizing their historical materials including newspapers. I am currently working on a grant-funded project to digitize historic Connecticut newspapers for the Library of Congress’ Chronicling America database.

I became actively involved with the Connecticut Library Association (CLA), serving on the CLA Board as Chair of the Technical Services Section 2005/2006. While currently a general member of the section I have also served in the past as Vice-Chair, Secretary and member of that section.

In 2002/2003 I served on the CLA Board as Co-Chair of the first annual conference held in Mystic in April 2003 which was a wonderful experience. As a conference chair and board member, I had the opportunity to really learn about the organization, the regions, and the various sections. 2001/2002 was spent as assistant to the Conference Chairs. I have been active with the New England Library Association (NELA) as well. I served on the Board of NELA as an elected officer, first as Junior Director of NELA from 2009-
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2010, followed by Senior Director of NELA from 2010-2011. One of the duties of the Junior/Senior Director is to be a liaison to the NELA sections which let me learn much about the workings of the organization (similar to the CLA conference position). The Senior Director also has the task of reviewing and/or revising the bylaws of the organization. I also served on the NELA Conference Committee from 2006-2012.

I would be honored to serve as your NELA Representative and believe my knowledge of the workings of both CLA and NELA make me an excellent candidate to represent and serve both organizations well. ♦

AL A Chapter Councilor

Carl Antonucci
Director of Library Services, Elihu Burritt Library, Central CT State University

I am running for a second term for the position of ALA Chapter Councilor because I believe that my experience as past president of the Connecticut Library Association has prepared me well for the duties of this position. I am also now very familiar with how the ALA Council works from having served as the Connecticut Chapter Councilor for the past three years. I am also very familiar with the workings of the Connecticut Library Association and I am also the chair of the CLA Legislative Committee. I have worked with Marci Merola from the ALA Advocacy Office to keep ALA aware of our legislative agenda in Connecticut. I have also been involved in leadership positions in ALA. For the past 7 years, I have been part of the Connecticut delegation that attends the ALA sponsored National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. I regularly attend both the ALA Midwinter meeting and the Annual Conference and will continue to work hard to keep the lines of communication open between ALA and CLA. ♦

Voting will take place electronically in mid-May

Members will receive an email with voting instructions.

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.

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www.ctlibraryassociation.org

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NELA Representative
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