The Public Libraries Section is proud to sponsor the first Passport to CT Libraries program, running in 87 participating public libraries from September 2nd through September 30th. Based on the Wine Trail Passport Program in CT, this program will run during Library Card Sign Up Month in September. Every library has its own architecture, vibe and collection to explore and browse, so the hope is that everyone will make full use of CT’s unique facility to use one library card in any CT public library. The program is open to both adults and children. The objective is to build awareness of the value of the card as well as encouraging residents to explore the amazing diversity of our public libraries. To see some stunning photographs of our libraries and a map of all those participating, check out the Facebook page Passport to Connecticut Libraries!

Every participating library will offer a Passport to their patrons, that each patron will take to any participating library to be stamped and receive a small gift. At the end of the month, patrons will turn in their passports to any participating library to be entered in two drawings: Most Libraries Visited and one Random Drawing for all participants. The drawing will be for two adult prizes of $150.00 each and two children’s (under 18) of $100.00 each.

Many thanks go to all the librarians who have taken time out of their busy schedules to meet and develop the program, but special thanks go to Lorna Rhyins (Edith Wheeler Memorial Library) for designing the Passport; Drusilla Carter (Willimantic Library) for designing the Facebook page, as well as making a valiant attempt to visit every library; and Merry Mao (Stratford Library) for creating the very cool Google map of all the participating libraries. You simply can’t beat a librarian for being creative AND organized! ✨
CT Librarian: Sandy Rosado

What brought you to the library field?
While studying music at the University of Connecticut, I started working in the music library there. After getting both Bachelors and Masters degrees in music composition, as well as CT state teaching certification for music grades pre-K-12, I got a job as a middle school music teacher. After one year on the job, I decided to rethink my career path. Remembering how much I enjoyed working in the music library, I pursued library work, landing a job as a paraprofessional in the Scores & Recordings library at Wesleyan University in Middletown. During that time, I went back to school part-time at Southern CT State University to earn both my MLS and my cross-certification as a school media specialist.

Have you always worked in academic libraries?
No – my first job after receiving my MLS was as the Assistant Director of Eastern CT Libraries (ECL). Some will remember that this was one of the regional Cooperating Library Service Units (CLSUs) that pre-dated the current CT Library Consortium. I also worked briefly in the Children’s Department of the Willimantic Public Library, and have worked at the Mitchell College Library.

What is your current position, and how long have you been there?
Currently I am the Head of Technical Services at the J. Eugene Smith Library at Eastern CT State University in Willimantic. Librarians here are considered faculty, and I have received tenure; last year I received my 10 year service award.

You recently were awarded the "Supporter of Support Staff" - tell us about that.
I spent about 10 years working as a paraprofessional before getting my MLS. While working at ECL, I became involved in support staff issues, including a term on the steering committee of LSSIRT, ALA’s support staff section. I was also fortunate to have been chosen to attend COPE III, ALA’s in-depth look at library support staff education held in Chicago in 2003 (which eventually led to the current ALA-APA national library support staff certification program). At ECL, I tried to make sure support staff in eastern CT were aware of professional development opportunities. This led to coordinating a Support Staff Roundtable for ECL (no longer in existence), as well as getting involved in the CLA Support Staff Section (later renamed CLASS). I also created the opportunity to run the LTA Certificate Program at Three Rivers Community College as part of my job description at ECL, which I did for four years. I have remained heavily involved with CLASS since 1999. I was there when CLASS started its annual full-day paraprofessional conference; when we started doing support staff salary surveys in CT every 5 years; when we put forward minimum job competencies which eventually led to CLA’s minimum salary guidelines for support staff; and when we first implemented the Support Staff of the Year and Supporter of Support Staff of the Year awards, modeled on the national awards given by Library Mosaics / COLT (both no longer in existence). So I feel particularly honored to have been awarded the Supporter of Support Staff Award this past year!

What do you like most about your job? What are the challenges?
My colleagues are the best to work with. It is wonderful to go to work each day with people you like and respect; I am very lucky! Another thing I like about the library at ECSU is the size – we are not such a large size that each job is so specialized that you do exactly the same thing every day. But we are also not so small as to feel overwhelmed with knowing how to do every single job in the library. We are a nice medium-size that allows for variety. For example, I am Head of Technical Services with a specialization in preservation and book repair, but I also work some shifts on the reference desk, and am the subject liai-
son to both the Performing Arts and Physical Sciences Departments, as well as many other things I get to do. Some of the challenges that all libraries share and we see especially in Technical Services is the shift from physical objects to digital objects, evidenced in increasing numbers of databases and ebooks. This includes an underlying shift from spending one-time money to more subscription models, and from a model of ownership to license. This in turn changes aspects of acquisitions and materials processing. At the same time, our collection of 450,000 print items is not going away any time soon, so we still have to live in a material world.

How long have you been involved in CLA, and how has it helped you professionally?
I joined CLA as an MLS student back in 1995. I started attending board meetings in 1999 as the liaison to the Three Rivers LTA Certificate Program. When the Chair of the Procedures Committee position came open in 2003, I volunteered to do that, and stayed on in that role for eight years. I have gotten to know so many wonderful professional colleagues from the board meetings over those 12 years! It was a great way to make connections, and to hear about what was happening throughout the state. The reports from the State Library were always particularly enlightening. Some of us in academic libraries don’t get out as much as we should — I still find CLA involvement a great way to learn what else is going on in the state beyond my campus. And professional connections help a lot when our CLASS conference planning committee is looking for speakers and session ideas.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I am heavily involved in music in my off-work time. In a classical vein, I play flute and piccolo in the Willimantic Orchestra, and also run the website for the orchestra. In a popular music vein, perform in an instrumental surf rock band with my husband — the band is called 9th Wave; I play a variety of instruments in the band, such as vintage Farfisa organ, rhythm guitar, flute, alto saxophone, percussion, and conch shell. We have been an established band since 1997 and are well-known in the east coast surf music scene, with six CD recordings of original music. (It is ironic that I have two degrees in music composition, but my husband writes all the surf tunes!) We perform in CT, NYC, Boston, as well as traveling to Lake George NY each year for a tiki festival, and to North Carolina for an annual Instro Summit. We also did some shows in California and Las Vegas two summers ago. In addition, we started the

Message from the President

By Dawn LaValle, CLA President 2014-2015

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Connecticut Library Association and its members. Although, Richard Conroy and his predecessors will be hard acts to follow, I am confident that we can build on the continuing success of CLA initiatives and further the mission of the association. The Executive Committee has hit the ground running, the 2015 CLA Conference committee is hard at work designing an exciting conference experience; sections and committees are planning programs and mini conferences to further our professional development needs and we are considering several legislative initiatives with our lobbyist, Bobby “Go Libraries” Shea.

As one of the cornerstones of my tenure, I am calling on each and every CLA member to become a voice of advocacy for your library and for Connecticut libraries as a whole, the stronger our voices, the better to be heard. Our goal will be to provide you with the tools to become more effective advocates to promote CT libraries as essential to our communities. There will be a new class of legislators in Hartford in 2015 and many of our strongest supporters will be stepping down, so we will need to foster new relationships and spread the word that libraries in CT rock!

Are you up for a challenge? I am, let’s work together to continue the momentum of CLA. Is there something you think we should be doing then let us know we are here to serve you and help you further your professional aspirations.

“The only true equalisers in the world are books; the only treasure-house open to all comers is a library; the only wealth which will not decay is knowledge; the only jewel which you can carry beyond the grave is wisdom.”

J. A. Langford

Dawn LaValle is Director of Library Development at the CT State Library
CLA/ACLB Scholarship Award Winners

The Connecticut Library Association and the Association of Connecticut Library Boards presented the CLA/ACLB MLS Scholarships for 2014 at the Annual Conference in April. Read about the recipients below:

Jessica Franco of Ledyard, Connecticut, earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree, majoring in Library Science, from Clarion University (Pennsylvania). Positive experiences with a librarian instilled her passion for the library profession. Besides student teaching as a school librarian, Jessica has worked in the Clarion University library, interned at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, helped develop a Book Bingo event for the Romance Reader’s Club at Groton Public Library, and supervised and planned activities for young adults with special needs through the Groton Parks and Recreation Adaptive Program.

Jessica has been president of Clarion University’s student chapter of the Special Library Association and vice president of Lambda Sigma, the library science academic organization. One particular program that she brought to Clarion was De-Stress with Dogs, which brought therapy dogs to the academic library during final exam week to help students relieve stress and homesickness. Because of her education background, Jessica wants to pursue a career in a public library, working with Young Adults. Jessica attends the University of Rhode Island, where she is a graduate assistant in the Curriculum Materials Library.

Allison Murphy of Redding, Connecticut earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Saint Michael’s College. After earning her degree, Allison worked in children’s book publishing, notably with Roaring Brook Press and Weston Woods. This allowed her to meet several notable illustrators and authors. As a School and Library Marketing Manager, she learned how publishers market books to the public through conventions, author tours, and school visits. Allison feels that her education and work experience has made her the best librarian she can be. Allison worked several years for the Mark Twain Library in Redding as Children’s Library Programmer, planning and implementing story times and special programs, handling publicity for the children’s department, and conducting collection development. She initiated a Tiny Tots program for babies and caregivers, helping provide their first experience at the library. Allison loves incorporating teachable moments into every story time.

Allison’s volunteer experience includes serving on the 2015 and 2016 Intermediate Nutmeg Award Committee and serving as president of the National Charity League Redding/Easton chapter (a mother-daughter philanthropic organization that works with Fairfield County and national charities). Allison recently became a children’s librarian at Wallingford Public Library, where she finds “joy in seeing a child’s face light up when he laughs along with a story, or when helping a student find just the right book for a project.” Allison attends San Jose State University. ♦
Library service in Vernon, CT, has had a long and varied history. In 1776, when the town was known as North Bolton, a library was established to provide residents with books “suited to promote useful knowledge and piety in the community.” In 1811 the Vernon Union Library Company was created with 80 subscribers. In 1843 the owners of the New England Mill formed the New England Company Library with the purchase of 300 books for use by their employees. Around 1863, townspeople started a public subscription library that added 500 books to the mill collection. Over the years the library moved to various locations in the business district. By 1896 there were 2,000 books in the collection.

The history of the present day Rockville Public Library began in 1893 with the bequest of $10,000 from George Maxwell to the town of Vernon for a free public library. The money was given with the understanding that the town raise an equal amount in five years. That same year the Rockville Public Library was incorporated by the state legislature and the Rockville Public Library Association was organized. By 1895, the matching sum was appropriated by the town, and the library opened on June 12, 1896 in the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company.

Following Mr. Maxwell’s death, his family gave a gift to the town of the present library building and its grounds, along with an endowment to maintain and operate the facility. The library is primarily funded from this gift and other gifts and grants. In a private/public partnership the library receives about a third of its operating budget from the town of Vernon.

Ground was broken in 1903 for the building designed by Charles A. Platt of New York. The library was officially opened on June 29, 1904.

The next major renovation was in 1967, when the Children’s Library was built and additional space added. In early 2000 an interior renovation was completed to update the Reading Room area and accommodate modern materials.

In 2008, after a town wide needs assessment was completed, the library began raising the funds to make the building handicapped accessible and add an addition 6,000 square feet of space. The Expanding Your World Campaign raised the necessary funds to complete the addition and construction began in July of 2012. The firm of Moser, Pilon and Nelson designed the project and the construction was provided by Kronenberger and Sons, Inc.

During the construction, RPL remained open to the public and moved some offices off site. Our patrons were wonderfully understanding about the mess, noise and disruption. We had to close for the last month to reshelve the 17,000 books that were in storage and move all the other materials. On the last day of March, 2014, the work was complete and we were fully open to the public.

All three floors of the library are now accessible with our new elevator. A new, wider stairwell and a beautiful interior curved staircase enable patrons to walk between floors. The previous exterior of the building is now serving as inside walls and is a patron favorite.

We have added a multipurpose room that seats 30 and can be for meetings or classes. A wall mounted Smart Board is included. Our local history collection was moved from a locked area in the basement to this new room and is in glass cabinets for patrons to see what is available for their use.

Our teen collection has been moved from a cramped area in the Children’s library to its own section in the new addition. Banquette seating gives a measure of privacy and also staff visibility. This area has been very popular and well used since we reopened.

Our circulation desk has doubled in size and we are better able to help our patrons and have more space for other staff needs. The 100 year old marble façade has been replicated on the new end with marble from the same quarry in Italy.

We have increased our number of public internet computers from 7 to 11 and have catalog computers on all three floors. In addition, we added 2 more Wi-Fi hotspots to improve our service.

Staff space has been enlarged so that cataloging can be done in a more efficient manner and two offices were added.

Our primary purpose in doing the addition and renovation was to provide all Vernon residents with a safe, modern, space that provides access to the latest technology and library services and we feel confident that our new space has met that need.
Open for patrons ages 13 to 113+, Innovation Station will serve not only as home base for the Singularity Technology team, but also as a place for the Wilton community to learn new skills, exchange ideas, test technologies, collaborate, and create.

Community is Key to Robotics and Maker Space Innovations
By Kathy Trentos, Wilton Library

The question buzzing around Wilton, CT these days is “What came first… the library’s robotics team or the new maker space?” Truth be told, both ideas had been percolating inside and outside Wilton’s library community for a while and their stories intertwine. But officially, the Wilton Library robotics team, dubbed Singularity Technology, became a reality in September 2013 and Wilton Library’s maker space, Innovation Station, opened to the public on June 8, 2014.

In the past we’ve certainly had rich programming and wonderful resources. Now, with Innovation Station, we are bringing the community into a new kind of educational experience -- an adult crafting experience, one that offers firsthand learning with cutting edge technologies and a DIY attitude,” says Elaine Tai-Lauria. “And the robotics team offers our young tinkerers a more hands-on study of the robotics that may well become the career opportunity of tomorrow.”

When library executive director Elaine Tai-Lauria was appointed in 2012, one key area targeted for growth was STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) learning as well as new technology — and making both accessible to the community. The maker space movement at libraries was well underway and the team at Wilton Library was eager to bring this hands-on ideology to its own community. Meanwhile, the community’s tech-loving teens, working with the library’s Teen Services department, came together to form the first ever library-supported FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team. The team was housed in the library’s sub-basement, previously storage for archived newspapers and music records. Working in this less than ideal space, Singularity Technology managed to achieve great success in its rookie year -- securing a coveted spot in the State Championships.

Working within library walls, it was decided that space adjacent to the Teen Services area was the ideal spot for the maker space. The plans, drawn-up by New York-based designer Lisa Waldie, called for a near seamless design to match the library’s existing finely-milled oak cabinetry and sleek glass interiors. The new 320-square foot space allows for up to 20 creators to work simultaneously and for those outside in other library spaces to see the innovations happening within.

Open for patrons ages 13 to 113+, Innovation Station will serve not only as home base for the Singularity Technology team, but also as a place for the Wilton community to learn new skills, exchange ideas, test technologies, collaborate, and create.

Open for patrons ages 13 to 113+, Innovation Station will serve not only as home base for the Singularity Technology team, but also as a place for the Wilton community to learn new skills, exchange ideas, test technologies, collaborate, and create. At the opening, Innovation Station contained a 3-D printer, an iMac with Final Cut Pro, a PC with Adobe Creative Cloud, a digital scanner, VHS to DVD converter, die cutter, and electronic sewing machine, as well as a sewing kit, hot glue gun, markers, pinking shears, pliers, screwdrivers and more. Hardware components such as Arduinos, programmable circuit boards, and Raspberry Pi’s self-contained mini computers, are also available for patron projects. Over time, Wilton Library hopes to add more items, such as a laser cutter, 3-D scanner and digitizing art tablet.

There will be technology workshops, demonstrations and open sessions where patrons

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can work alone or together on projects. “The library can provide a collaborative learning environment and also provide a pool of resources to learn new skills,” explains Tai-Lauria. Wilton Library will also be looking towards its talented population to suggest workshops and share their skills as class teachers.

Director Tai-Lauria summed it up with, “In addition to delivering traditional services, the library of today must encourage experimentation and collaboration through access to expanded new technologies, innovative resources and user-friendly tools. Wilton Library is following this path together with a strong and supportive community behind our endeavors.”

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.

Andrew Carnegie

Joint ALA/CLA Student Membership Available

Library school students are eligible to join both ALA and the Connecticut Library Association at one low price of $35.00 a year. Join both state and national library associations and get connected to your future. Joint student members are full members of both associations, and receive all the benefits accorded to student members in each association. For ALA it includes: 6 issues of American Libraries magazine, weekly e-delivery of AL Direct, bi-monthly Student Direct, discounts on ALA and Division conferences, 10% discounts on ALA Editions and Graphics, access to ALA scholarships, grants and travel opportunities.

For more information, or to join, visit: ctablibraryassociation.org/join.php
world’s largest network of instrumental surf bands called NESMA, with over 100 east coast band members currently. (Six years ago I even got June officially designated as Instrumental Surf Music month!)

Through performing with 9th Wave I have become very involved in researching the history of surf music and other early rock music forms. I have presented a lecture on this at several conferences, including the 32nd Annual Sea Music Festival in Mystic CT, and the North East Popular/American Culture Association in Boston MA. Someday I hope to write a book about surf music, but for right now my time is mostly taken up with performing!

What books are on your nightstand right now waiting to be read, or what is the most book you’ve read?
Most of the books I have piled up to read are related to my research on the history of surf music, such as:
The Soul of Tone: Celebrating 60 Years of Fender Amps
Hollywood Surf and Beach Movies: The first wave 1959-1969
Mondo Exotica: Sounds, Visions, Obsessions of the Cocktail Generation
Surfin’ Guitars: Instrumental Surf Bands of the Sixties
Pop Surf Culture: Music, Design, Film, and Fashion from the Bohemian Surf Boom

I am also reading Mountain Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder so I can share it with my high-school bound step-daughter, who is required to read it for school this summer. And I am reading Nuns Behaving Badly: Tales of Music, Magic, Art, and Arson in the Convents of Italy just because it is interesting. In addition, I listen to lots of audiobooks through my local public library’s Overdrive service – mostly historical fiction, non-fiction, and some mysteries.

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www.ctlibraryassociation.org