Most Memorable Reads of 2014

Recommended by Members of the CLA Board

From Sheri Szymanski
*Not My Father’s Son* by Alan Cumming
Entertainer, Alan Cumming finds himself living a real-life mystery story when his stint on the BBC version of *Who Do You Think You Are?* gives him a lot more than he bargains for. Genealogy aficionados and fans of Cumming will enjoy this emotional memoir.

From Marjorie Ruschau
*The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion
A college science professor who probably has a touch of Asperger’s decides it’s time to marry. So he creates a 20-page questionnaire for prospective wives. But along comes Rosie, who meets none of the criteria, and let the fun begin. Even as I look at what other books I read this year, many heavier in content, I can’t forget what fun it was reading this.

From Sally Tornow
*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking* by Susan Cain
Introverts and extroverts will both benefit from reading "Quiet," but for those of us introverts who find joy in alone time, prefer a book to joining a party or think monastic silence is bliss, there is no longer any need to feel out of step with the rest of the world because of our preferences. The message from "Quiet" is clear: Introversion has never been an aberration but a variant of the norm and introverts are just as accomplished (may I say maybe even more so?) than those more at ease in a crowd.

From Michele Martin
*Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood* by William Mann
The murder of director William Desmond Taylor rivals another notorious Hollywood cold case, the Black Dahlia. Peopled with the highest tier of Hollywood power brokers to the lowest rungs of losers and hangers-on, the story is also an informative history about the early structure of film production, distribution and theater franchising that persists even today. A little slow at times, but I stuck with it because I am a sucker for streets named Sunset and Alvarado.

From Dawn LaValle
*Redeployment* by Phil Klay
In the spirit of Tim O’Brien’s, *The Things They Carried*, Karl Marlantes’, *What It is Like to Go to War* and more recently Kevin Powers’, *The Yellow Birds*, Phil Klay’s collection of short stories takes readers to the unconventional battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan to help readers make sense of what goes on in a theatre of war and what happens to the military personnel sent there. His stories are stark, brutal, engaging, shedding light on the politics of war and the deep affect it takes on soldiers, marines, airmen, National Guardsmen. A civilian cannot understand what it is like for someone in the military to be sent to a foreign land into organized chaos only to be sent home a year or two later and expected to assimilate back into daily life. Klay manages to tell these unique stories

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Highlights of the 2014 New England Library Association Conference

"Be Bold: Librarians in the Center Ring" was the theme of the 2014 New England Library Association conference held in Boxborough, Massachusetts this past October. The Conference attracted library professionals from the six New England States for three days of professional learning, networking and fun.

In his keynote address, Designing a 21st Century Roadmap for the Future of Libraries, futurist Garry Golden shared his amusing and insightful take on cultural, technological and educational trends, and how they relate to the future role of libraries. He stressed the importance of foresight in building support systems for libraries.

A panel from the Goffstown Public Library in New Hampshire, Goffstown High School and the University of New Hampshire at Manchester, presented a moving and affirming presentation on how they collaborated to host Human Libraries at each of their sites. Human "books" who were part of the original programs also presented, and made themselves available for "check-out" to conference attendees at a break-out session.

Connecticut Library Association VP/President-Elect, Beth Crowley reprised her CLA program, The Secret Life of a Library Director, as a table talk session. Both veteran library directors and those new to the position shared their take on various topics from building maintenance to personnel management to fears over the threat of Ebola in libraries. Many useful strategies and amusing stories flowed freely among the participants.

New Hampshire librarian Mary Ann List was the recipient of this year’s Emerson Greenaway Award for her exemplary contributions at the Andover Town Library and the Portsmouth Public Library.

Sunday evening began with the annual NELA Games, brilliantly planned and organized as always by Connecticut’s own Mary Etter, Director of the South Windsor Public Library. Mary’s creativity was in exceptional form as she combined the circus theme with the conference location of “Box”-borough. Teams of participants from the six states and one team of vendors competed to see who could build the tallest tower of boxes while wearing clown noses. After several rounds and a sudden death juggle-off, the Massachusetts team came out the victor and claimed the coveted NELA Snail Trophy.

Submitted by Beth Crowley
Message from the President

By Dawn LaValle, CLA President 2014-2015

Have you taken The Librarians “which character are you” quiz? I did, and apparently, I am most like Colonel Eve Baird, the former military, counter terrorism expert taking on the role of Guardian Protector who investigates and tracks down the magical artifacts as part of a greater mission. You may ask, what does this have to do with CLA? In many ways, as librarians, we embark on missions every day: hunting down materials and resources, investigating new program ideas, innovations, and trends to help us serve the users in our communities. We are protectors of the Right to Read, guardians of history, and the defenders of democratic values of free and open access for all. CLA plays the role of the organization that represents the best interests of librarians, providing leadership, professional development opportunities, networking, and advocacy tools to ensure that all of our librarian protectors can fulfill their missions for the greater good.

This past year many of our guardians and protectors, with their extensive institutional history, have decided to lay down their catalog cards to retire and move on to the next act, or have moved on to other scenes. But have no fear—we do have many excellent librarians in training, waiting in the wings, ready to assume the roles and continue the mission. I had a call from a respected guardian library director, very excited that an intern, librarian in training made the decision to go to library school so the future is indeed bright for librarians and CLA will be there to help.

No matter which of the characters you identify with, all librarians play an essential role in this great adventure that is librarianship. So prepare to play your part in the challenging and exciting year that lies ahead.

Happy Holidays!
Dawn

I’m of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved.
- Barbara Kingsolver

CLA Scholarships

The Career Development Committee offers scholarships annually to CLA members enrolled in MLS or LTA degree programs. This year the committee, in partnership with the Association of CT Library Boards (ACLB), is awarding two MLS scholarships in the amount of $2,000.00. The Career Development Committee will also award one LTA scholarship in the amount of $750.00. Application and all materials must be submitted/postmarked by February 27, 2015 in order to receive consideration. In addition to the monetary award, scholarship winners receive complimentary 1-day registration and lunch at the 2015 CLA Annual Conference.

Award Criteria
- You must be 1) a CLA member and 2) a CT resident or employed in a CT library.
- You must be enrolled, but not graduated, in an LTA or ALA-accredited MLS (MLIS) program.

Please send a copy of your letter of acceptance (MLS only).

If you have received an ALA Spectrum Scholarship, please submit an official notification of the award.

Please send official transcripts of post-secondary education by the deadline; MLS students need only send official transcripts of completed Baccalaureate and other advanced degrees and should forward an official transcript of any work completed toward the MLS thus far.

Scholarships are not automatically renewed; students must reapply.

Award recipients will receive complimentary 1-day registration and lunch for the 2015 CLA annual conference.

Go to the Connecticut Library Association’s website for the application.
http://ctlibraryassociation.org/content.php?page=Scholarships

Dawn LaValle is Director of Library Development at the CT State Library
Hey Kym! I heard you just got a new job. Congrats! Tell us about that. What are your favorite parts so far? What are your challenges? I did just get a new job. I used to work at the West Haven Public Library as the Youth Assistant Librarian, and I’m now at the Easton Public Library as the Children/Teen Librarian. I like that the small town feel allows for people to get to know you quickly and efficiently, by my second week there, most of the patrons new my name and my pictures and information was even in one of the preschool newsletters. It was nice to feel so welcome. That being said, there are so many little ones that attend programs, I'm having a hard time keeping all of the names straight, but I know that will come with time.

What led you into librarianship? I decided to enter librarianship when I was at a kind of crossroads in my life. I was jumping from job to job and state to state and all I wanted was some stability. I'd always been an avid reader, and looking back at my work history, I realized that working in a library (during undergrad) was the only job I'd had that really fit. So I took a risk and applied to grad school.

How did you get involved with CLA? I took my first steps toward involvement with CLA when I began attending Newbie Roundtables run through the CLC. I was eager to jump into the library world in Connecticut, and learn as much as I could, as soon as I could. I joined CLA, ALA, and YALSA. I also attended as many events as my job would allow, including the 2014 CLA Conference where I was receiving the FLAG scholarship. While there, a few people suggested I join the CLA Board under the children’s division which was convenient-ly chaired by my supervisor at the time. I attended my first CLA Board meeting a few months later.

Tell us about your work with the Newbie Roundtable. After attending a few months worth of Newbie Roundtables, I was approached by its Chair Sara Ray and asked to consider being her Co-Chair. Initially I felt that I didn’t have enough experience, but Sara assured me that I would be fine. The Newbies are a unique roundtable group, in that we don't focus on any one topic. We've held meeting on interview techniques, LinkedIn, Consortium, children’s programming, YA programming, technology, and so much more. We try to provide those new and not so new to librarianship with a place to go to hone their craft and expand upon what they already know. The name Newbie can put off some of those more seasoned in libraries, we want to fulfill the needs of everyone!

What tips would you give newbies in the library field? What about folks considering entering the field? I would tell those new to the library field to get involved and meet as many people as you can. Network! The CLC and CLA provide such great opportunities for us to get to know each other, personally and professional-ly. The roundtables were my gateway into this world, but the meetups that have recently started up again would be the perfect way to ask any probing questions you have about the library field in a non intimi-dating atmosphere. Once you've developed some kind of relationship with another librarian, it's easy to send them an e-mail when you have a work related question, and they're always eager to offer assistance.

To those considering entering the library world, I would go to the local library, get a feel for the atmosphere, and decided if it's for you. Maybe try to find a place to volunteer, and talk to the librarians. Tell them you're considering entering the library field, if there’s one thing we librarians like to do, it’s talk, and we’re always happy to help! If you’re nerv-ous about walking into a
When Otis Library opened its new facility in 2007, it presaged dramatic changes in its physical space and the perception of the library as a community asset. Twice as large as the edifice it replaced, brightly lit and well appointed with new technologies and enhanced public spaces, the library seemed well situated for the foreseeable future. Within a few years, however, through anecdote and observation it became clear that how the public used the library was changing and that a reassessment of our service model was both desirable and inevitable. While circulation of hard copy materials and providing access to information were clearly salient features of our mission, we needed more empirical data on what our community expected of us. Using focus groups, staff meetings, perusal of professional literature and always cognizant of the fiscal constraints that were now the status quo, we elected to concentrate on consolidating service points, improving staff familiarity with the full panoply of services available, maximizing staff functions and, consequently, better meeting the expectations of our patrons.

Otis Library embarked on a strategic planning process to develop a new service model more in tune with the changing world of libraries. A staff planning committee, drawing from the different service areas, administration and development served as the coordinating body with the Executive Director acting as liaison with the library board. The centerpiece of our vision was a “one desk model” where the basic reference questions, circulation transactions, and myriad general inquiries can be addressed. Staff assigned to other service areas would be freed to provide personalized visitor services beyond the constricting confines of a desk, could schedule time for training and special projects that add or improve services, and would avail themselves of opportunities to transport programming and conduct constituent services beyond the physical library.

The Otis Library circulation area was not large enough to adequately accommodate the additional work stations needed to consolidate services, so the first element of change envisioned an expanded desk area with networked work stations and schedules that allowed staff with a variety of expertise to be on duty at any given time. This ensured both the availability of comprehensive public services and fostered the staff interactions critical to building the empathy endemic among interdependent, cohesive teams. Esprit de corps was facilitated by cross training, during which staff members spent time working in several service areas, gaining firsthand experience in the full panoply of library service functions and resources. Critically, mixing staff at the front desk and through cross training has served to palliate the “silo effect” caused by exclusive assignment to one service point and identification with one type of service delivery.

While the planning focused on physically enlarging the area occupied by the front desk to accommodate more work stations and staff members, it also became apparent that a capacious desk was only one element of a more comprehensive plan. The opportunities to address other concerns frequently manifested themselves during the “one desk” planning as team members developed a full appreciation for how one potential change can inform and encourage broad, strategic thinking. Ours is a community where access to parking is a frequent point of contention, and a milieu in which the pace of life can be frenetic. Time is evanescent and innovations that conserve it welcome. In response, the highest circulating items in the collection, aside from children’s and young adult materials, were relocated to an area immediately adjacent to the expanded service desk where they were easily perused by patrons with limited time. To expedite transactions and avoid lengthy queues, a self-check station was introduced.

We gathered other valuable insights that helped shape our services to the needs of our audiences. A salient example: the existing Young Adult area did not lend itself to active programming or the types of group activities that young adults favored. Therefore, the Young Adult area, originally located in the space adja-
Passport Program Wrap-Up
By Sally Tornow

Where to start??!! This program exceeded our wildest expectations in library participation, patron participation, and outcomes. While the committee’s purpose for this program was to demonstrate the value of a CT library card, the original hopes were for maybe a third of the libraries to join, for some of our loyal library lovers to expand their library experiences, and for the participating libraries to have an increased awareness of their services. Being the first year anything like this was attempted, there were certainly a few glitches, but given that first time status, it went remarkably smoothly and achieved the goals fantastically.

In the event that some of you may have missed what the Passport program was, all the public libraries in CT were invited through the CLA notification system and Conntech to participate in a month long program. For a $10 entry fee, each library was provided with a template for printing the ‘passport,’ a list of all participating libraries, a template for a press release, how-to instructions, and their patrons were eligible for the random drawing prizes. It was decided by the wonderful committee of volunteers (thank you all and I wish I could include all your names!!) that the program should run during the month of September (National Library Card Sign-Up Month). Patrons could obtain a passport at any participating library and would have the month to visit at least 5, obtain each library’s stamps on the passport, and receive a token gift of that library’s choosing. At the end of the month, those patrons who had managed to get five submitted them to their libraries. Four prizes were available: One each for the child and adult who visited the most libraries; and one each for both a child and adult that was entirely random. Each library submitted their two top travelers and the two random drawings.

The two adult prizes were MasterCard gift cards in the amount of $150, and the two children’s prizes were MasterCard gift cards in the amount of $100.

More than half the libraries in the State participated, and while almost all of them reported that they did not give out as many passports as they had hoped, it was universal that they all had many more visitors than normal. In addition, those visitors reported discovering exactly what we had hoped: Every library is unique and that being able to use any library is a huge benefit to living in this State. We also anticipated that there would be only one child and adult that visited many libraries. We actually had 5 children (and remember, this is with school in session!) who visited every single participating library and NINE adults! So, even the most visited ended up being a random drawing from that pool.

We are hoping to present at the CLA Conference this spring, so that we can go into more depth about the details, personal stories, and pictures that patrons as well as an intrepid librarian took, and go over some of the glitches. However, we are planning to do it again in April of 2016 (to coincide with National Library Week and to enable more children to participate during their vacation weeks), so keep an eye out for the sign-up, which will probably begin in the Fall of 2015.

One family documented their travels with a photo at every library they visited (which we will share at the Conference), but we have included two of them here – are these from your library?!
The one personal story we must share here is from Danielle Valenzano, Children’s Library Assistant at Milford Public Library. The story in this email embodies everything we hoped to achieve and more, so keep it in mind when your next opportunity to participate rolls around!

“Hello Sally,
I just wanted to share a very positive experience that came from your Passport to CT Libraries. We had a family who came in to get their passports stamped in the Children’s Department. They were lovely. They had their passports stamped and picked up our newsletter and a few weeks later, they registered their two older children (12 & 9) for my 6 week writing club. The children have been amazing – such active participants with an obvious love of writing, which is super great in this type of setting. Each week they show up with huge smiles on their faces and notebooks in hand and are very excited to do all the writing exercises. They have always been the last ones to leave. English is their second language and yesterday, we did a Mad Lib together – it was their first time. They picked it up very fast and got help from me & one of the other girls in the club at parts of speech, etc. Anyway, I finally had a chance to speak to their mom last night since the club ran late and they were the last ones to want to leave. I asked if they were from Milford and she told me they were from Woodbridge and that the first time they’d ever been in our library was to get their passports stamps. She said they were so glad that they came because then they saw the writing club information in our newsletter and the kids wanted to sign up right away! They didn’t know they could register their cards with our library and they even wrote down titles last week, went back to Woodbridge and checked those books out! I was able to fill them in on registering their cards and the kids were pretty psyched to learn that they could check out books from our library and return them to Woodbridge. Anyway, this is just an example of how great of an idea it was to have those Passports and I hope that we do it again in the future! This family really did benefit from it… and so did our library because they are just the nicest family.”

It is with great excitement that we announce the winners to the 2014 Passport to CT Libraries Program!

- The winner of the Most Libraries Visited Drawing for Adults (there were NINE people who visited all the libraries!) is Bonnie Osborne from Guilford Free Library.

- The winner of the Most Libraries Visited Drawing for Children (there were FIVE!) is Heather McDougall from Portland Public Library.

- The winner of the Adult Random Drawing is Belinda Corgill from Burlington Public Library.

- The winner of the Child Random Drawing is Jennifer Simmons from Rockville Public Library.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated! ♦
Nominations

Call for nominations! If you’ve been looking for a way to become more involved with CLA here’s your chance. The following offices are up for election in the Spring of 2015:

- Vice President/President Elect (one year, followed by a one year term as President)
- Treasurer Elect (one year, followed by a two year term as Treasurer)
- Recording Secretary (two year term)
- Region 1 Representative (two year term)
- Region 4 Representative (two year term)
- Region 5 Representative (two year term)
- NELA Representative (two year term)
- ALA Chapter Councilor (three year term)

Please click on this link if you are unsure which region your organization belongs to. If you’re interested in being nominated for one of these offices contact Richard Conroy (rconroy@essexlib.org). Even if you’re not personally interested in serving, but know someone who would be a good candidate, please urge that person to contact Richard. You must be a CLA member in good standing to be nominated. Serving on the CLA Board is a great way to expand your network of professional colleagues, as well as an excellent potential career booster!

Ideas from around the State

If you want an idea for a book display, do what they did at the Meriden Public Library -- "borrow" the idea from another library. It didn't take much to photograph some staff members and a patron with a paper moustache stuck to each of their faces. Each held a book to recommend. Then some of the books were placed on the display along with bookmarks that gave people a chance to make their own mustaches. Patrons loved it!

Continued from P. 5

To cent the front desk, was relocated to another, more autonomous space more suitable for a range of YA activities, with a kitchen area and widescreen television. Other insights gathered during the planning process helped us build a strong case for improving our Wi-Fi access, upgrading our public computers and investing in new queuing software to expedite access to the public computers and facilitate payment for computer copies. Another tangible benefit was the cogent case developed for financial support of the project. A construction grant through the Connecticut State Library was the catalyst for support from the City of Norwich, individual donors, our Friends group and foundations. Grants and other outside support eventually covered the entire project cost of $56,000.

The service model that evolved from the “one desk” vision has several important ramifications. It allows staff to work smarter with greater communication and flexibility. Access was enhanced and technology and space allocations improved. A single service point approach has proven to be an effective way to utilize staff and maximize service to users while simultaneously increasing respect and cooperation amongst staff.

Continued from P. 5
Mark your calendars…….

CLA Annual Conference 2015
Magic in Mystic: Delight & Amaze Your Users

April 27 & 28
@ the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa
in Groton

Keynote Speakers

Stephen Bell
Michael Stephens

Featured Speakers

Aaron Schmidt
JP Porcaro

AND

***NEW LOWER 2 Day Registration Fees***

Watch for updates on the NEW CLA Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/ctlibraryassociation
2015 CLA Publicity Awards Contest

The CLA Publicity Committee sponsors an Annual Awards Contest. Materials designed by a library to promote a library concept or event may be submitted. A panel of professional designers/artists and a representative from the library field will choose the winning entries. Winners will be honored at a CLA Conference Program and winning entries will be displayed at the CLA Conference.

**Entry Guidelines**
- Library may submit one entry per category created during calendar year 2014.
- If your library has won an award in a particular category and have not made significant changes, please do not resubmit in that category.
- Send 2 originals of each entry with a copy of this entry form attached to each original. If submitting Electronic Media, you may email the project’s URL and screen shot (if applicable) to jmenders@otis.lioninc.org and mail or fax completed entry form.
- Entries will be judged for content, usability, originality & design.
- Judges’ decisions are final. The judges reserve the right not to give an award in a category or give additional awards if merited.
- Entries will not be returned.

**Submit entries by January 31, 2015 to:**
Julie Menders, jmenders@otis.lioninc.org, fax (860) 889-2533
Otis Library
261 Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360

**PRINT MEDIA**
- □ Bookmark  □ Newsletter  □ Program Flyer (8 1/2” x 14” or smaller)
- □ Poster (11” x 17” or larger)  □ Library Logo
- □ Other (e.g. Annual Report) ________________

**ELECTRONIC MEDIA** (include entry URL in the form below)
- □ Website / Blog  □ Video (DVD, YouTube, etc)  □ e-newsletter
- □ Other (e.g. Library Guides) ________________

**THEMATIC PROJECT**
- □ 3 or more coordinating items which can be print media, electronic media or a combination of both

**DESIGN**  □ In-House Design  □ Professional Design

Library Director: __________________________________________________________
Library: __________________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________  Email: ____________________________________
Designer(s):_______________________________________________________________
URL (for Electronic Media): _______________________________________________

Please describe the purpose and marketing plan in 250 words or less. (use back of form or attach a sheet)

Include  ° Cost?  ° Was it designed professionally?  ° What effect did the PR have on the project?

*Join CLA — For the advancement of librarians and the libraries we serve.*

www.ctlibraryassociation.org
library to find someone to converse with, look to social media, with blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr, you'll find someone who can answering your questions.

**For those of us who might have attended library school in the 20th century, could you tell us your experiences of getting your MLS?** Because I was in Ohio when I began my library program I applied to Kent State University and continued my program online when I moved back to Connecticut. A lot of the classes I took that focused on children, revolved around the mind, and the impact of gaming and technology and children. In many classes regardless of the subject matter we spoke heavily of internet safety and filters, I can’t say for sure, but I doubt that was much of an issue with previous generations of MLS students. Everything is very technologically based now.

**Tell us about your blog. What library or professional websites, blogs, Tumblr or Twitter feeds etc...do you recommend?** I began my blog when I first started at West Haven. The intent was to find program and story time ideas, and keep an eye out on the newest book releases and how the book lovers of the world felt about them. I called my blog Newbie Librarians, because my initial intent was to document my steps into the library world. In the end however I wound of reading a lot of book reviews, some I loved, some I didn’t love, and others I disagreed with so strongly that I had to review the same book with my own thoughts an opinions. Nowadays, my blog centers around YA book reviews, and I love it that way. (The link is [newbielibrarians.blogspot.com](http://newbielibrarians.blogspot.com))

These days social media is the fastest way to be notified of information. Some of my favorite websites and blogs are the Teen Librarian Toolbox, Epic Reads, Cuddlebuggery, Storytime Katie, Parajunkee, a blog called I Read To Relax, which is run by my librarian friend Jessica, and so many more. On Twitter, I go straight to the source and follow all of my favorite authors, and book publishers because they know books just as well as librarians do, and sometimes they'll release a chapter or two of a new book. Some of my favorite Tumblr pages are TheLife-GuardLibrarian, IFreakinLoveBooks, LibrarianProblems, Librarian-Advocates, PageToPremiere, and TeachingLiteracy. I follow most of these because I want to know as much about the newest books news as possible, but also because it’s nice to know there’s someone out there as passionate about the book world as I am. Finding these sites are as easy as typing "librarian blog" into a search engine and deciding if you’re interested in the information the moderator is presenting. Everyone’s looking for something different, it’s about finding what works for you.

**What do you like to do when you’re not “on the desk” or doing a storyline? Hobbies? Pets?** I was a Musical Theatre Major in undergrad so when I’m not at work I’m either listening to show tunes, or watching them. I recently saw Wick-ed at the Bushnell and I can’t wait for Into The Woods to come out in theaters. I go to karaoke just about every week, I like to blog about book reviews, and I sew when I’m feeling brave, I’m not the best at it.

**What books are on your bedside table right now?** I have In the Afterlight by Alexandra Bracken, BZRK by Michael Grant, and The Paradise Trap on my nightstand right now, but there are plenty more unread books on my two bookshelves.

Read [an article about Kym](http://www.eastoncourier.com) in the Easton Courier.

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**News from ALA**

On December 9, 2014, the American Library Association’s Washington Office launched a new and reinvigorated District Dispatch blog that highlights federal legislation and policy news that impacts libraries. The new District Dispatch makes it easier for library advocates to find important information policy news, search articles, share news and “drill down” further into national policy issues. The new District Dispatch also includes a “Breaking News” feature that makes it easier for advocates to find the most current and critical policy information they need to take action at the national level. Finally, the new blog makes it easier for library staff to find free policy-related webinars.

As we head into a new Congress, ALA members are encouraged to subscribe to the District Dispatch to keep abreast of relevant library policy news, such as federal funding opportunities, copyright reform, open access legislation, Federal Communications Commission proceedings and much more. Visit the blog today: [http://www.districtdispatch.org](http://www.districtdispatch.org).
people in the news

The Prospect Library is glad to announce the following additions to our library staff: Our new Assistant Director/Children’s Librarian is Christine Hollings. Ms. Hollings was formerly Youth Services Librarian at the Ferguson Library in Stamford and prior to that the Head of Children’s Services at the Darien Library. Also the Prospect Library hired 2 new library clerks - Debbie Levesque and Sarah Shepherd.

Amanda L. Goodman, User Experience Librarian at Darien Library, has been selected as a 2015 Emerging Leader. Amanda has worked at the Library since 2011.

Wendy Connal is appointed the new Director of the Bill Memorial Library in Groton, following the retirement of Hali Keeler. She was previously the reference and young adult librarian at the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook.

Christina T. Russo, STEM librarian at New Canaan High School and Cathy Swan are the authors of Your Library is the Answer: Demonstrating Relevance to Tech-Savvy Learners, being published in January, 2015 by Libraries Unlimited.

On November 10th 2014, the Willimantic Public Library welcomed Carlos Chiquizuta to its Children & Youth Services team!

Sue Hartley retired from her position as Head of Children’s Services at the Cheshire Public Library on October 31, 2014. She gave more than 32 years of service to children and families in the Town of Cheshire. Cindy Tencza will retire from her position of Children’s Librarian at the Cheshire Public Library at the end of 2014. Cindy served children and families in Cheshire for nearly 28 years. In recognition of the more than 60 years of professional and caring service that Sue and Cindy gave to the library, we are accepting donations for a beautiful carved sign for the entrance to the Children’s Room, in their honor.


Congratulations to Catherine Coyne of the Mansfield Public Library for her review of The Rosie Effect by Graeme Simion. It is the featured review in the January 2015 LibraryReads List.

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: 2/17/15, 4/15/15, 6/15/15, 8/17/15, 10/15/15.
from different points of view capturing the monotony of military life with spurts of unimaginable horror and brutality revealing poignant moments of deep faith, remorse, despair and much needed comic relief.

**From Ed Morrissey**  
Includes such horror classics as "The Call of Cthulhu", "The Colour Out of Space", "The Dunwich Horror" and the novel At The Mountains of Madness, all annotated with background histories, photos and original magazine illustrations. Plus there’s several informative appendixes that Lovecraft’s fans, and fans of horror fiction, will positively drool over!

**From Peter Ciparelli**  
*As You Wish* by Cary Elwes  
I don’t know anyone who doesn’t like The Princess Bride, Rob Reiner’s 1988 now cult classic. Cary Elwes takes us behind the scenes of the making of the movie and has written an honest, down-to-earth work that has something for everyone. I particularly liked the small "quote boxes" from the cast and crew which show up practically on every page. Bill Goldman, the author of the book, appears quite often and we learn of his mannerisms and quirks which add to the uniqueness of As You Wish. Learning more about Andre the Giant was also a plus. This is an ideal holiday gift for the bibliophile or cinema nut in all of us.

**From Christy Billings**  
*The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell.  
This story reels the reader in, and takes them to crazy places that strain all credibility. I needed a spreadsheet to keep track of the characters and their lives. The book begins in the late 1980s with a teen-age runaway named Holly. Her story pulls the reader in little by little until you are sitting on the edge of your seat, flipping pages, then it switches to another person entirely. The next POV is a sociopath named Hugo Lamb. When you realize that Holly and Lamb’s worlds are about to collide, you want to shout at him to "Leave Holly alone!" You could also shout at Holly, but she won’t hear you because it is no longer her POV. I have not even begun to scratch the surface of this fascinating roller coaster ride. Reader, pick up this book and don’t look back!

**From Janice Wilson**  
*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson  
Lawyer, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative, the author writes about his lifelong work defending the poor and wrongfully convicted. Unequal treatment in our criminal justice system was and still is very much alive. Reading this book made me reexamine my beliefs about how justice should be applied to all and saddened by the existing inequity.