

CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of
the Connecticut
Library
Association

The Hog What?

The Birth of a Regional Cultural Heritage Journal

by Janice Mathews

Some of you may have heard about the *Hog River Journal*. This new quarterly explores the lesser-known, yet fascinating, aspects of Central Connecticut's history. The first issue includes articles on Connecticut's Puerto Rican tobacco farm workers, the genesis of Hill-Stead in Farmington, and the importance of a photograph for one Connecticut family. There is also a photo essay on the Park River, which used to run through downtown Hartford and now runs under it.

The Park River was popularly known as the Hog River; it gives our journal its name. The tennements and tanneries that dotted its banks, and gave the river its nickname, were torn down to make way for Bushnell Park in the second half of the 19th century. Though picturesque, the river was prone to devastating floods and thus was buried in a conduit in the 1940s. The Hog River is our symbol for the lost (buried) stories of our region.

Cynthia Cormier, education director at Hill-Stead Museum, was familiar with the common lament of local historians: so many interesting research

projects and so few venues in which to publish them. She was the first to propose the idea for a new journal. Such ideas usually are greeted with "great idea" all around and little follow-through, but one person who heard Cindy's idea had follow-through aplenty. Had Elizabeth Normen, former interim director of Hill-Stead Museum, known exactly how much follow-through it would take to realize the journal, it probably wouldn't have happened. But luckily, Elizabeth and the team that formed were blissfully ignorant of the persistence needed to start such an endeavor and plunged right in.

Cindy and Elizabeth invited regional historians, educators, mu-

seum professionals, archivists, and librarians to Hill-Stead to discuss the



idea, and a core team emerged from those early meetings: Elizabeth, Cindy, photo editor Nancy Albert of Wesleyan University, Connecticut State archivist Mark Jones, Joan Jacobs and Sandra Wheeler of Trinity College's Hartford Studies Project, editor Clarissa Ceglio, and myself, then curator of the Hartford Public Library's Hartford Collection.

We wanted our journal to be lively, well written, and richly illustrated, accessible to non-scholars yet intellectually satisfying, a way to bring focus to the many great historical collections and institutions that surround us. Professional, amateur and student historians would have a forum in which to publish their work, institutions would have a place to fea-

Continued on page 10

<http://cla.uconn.edu>

INSIDE

NE Library Leadership Symposium ...	2
Looking at Books	2
Recissions & Layoffs	3
From the President	3
Executive Board Highlights	4
Library Photo Exhibit	4
YA Author Tamora Pierce	4
Heritage: Southington Library	5
CLASS Conference Report	6
The World of Islam	7
Knock Knock. Who's There?	8
Connecticut Book Awards	9
CLA Awards	11
Publications Contest	12

Rise to the Challenge. Empower Your Career at NELLS 2003

by Kris Jacobi

If you've always wanted to test your mettle or skills in the field of librarianship, I challenge you to go to the NELA website at <http://www.nelib.org> and apply to participate in a very special event: the first all-New England Library Leadership Symposium, aka "NELLS."

Four places have been allotted to Connecticut. Whether you are a librarian, support staff member, volunteer, trustee, or an active library friend, we are looking for a few good people. The NELLS Steering Committee urges you to seriously consider this exceptional opportunity for personal growth and professional development.

NELLS will be held at the Canonicus Camp and Conference Center in Exeter, RI on July 14-18. This is a total immersion experience with 26 outstanding participants who will be presented with a comprehensive curriculum by two veteran facilitators and the help of six mentors.

All six state library associations NELA have committed financial support to NELLS. The cost (\$400, all-inclusive) per student has been held low to encourage applicants. If money is a problem, you can apply for a CLA Proficiency Enhancement Grant at <http://cla.uconn.edu/awards/PEG/peg.html>.

If you've "been there, done that," then share your experience and knowledge with the student participants and apply to be a NELLS Mentor! Applications for mentors are available on the NELA website.

This leadership experience has been created for us, by us. Please consider either applying yourself or soliciting an application from someone else that you know is ready for this career boost. The deadline for student and mentor applications is January 24, 2003. Don't delay. Apply now! ■

Kris Jacobi is CLA's Representative to NELA.

BOOKS LOOKING AT

Scrolling Forward: Making Sense of Documents In the Digital Age

by David M. Levy (*Arcade Publishing, 2001*)

David M. Levy may be the perfect person to lead a discussion on the nature of twenty-first century documents. He holds advanced degrees in computer science on the one hand, and in calligraphy and bookbinding on the other. Remarkably, he earned the latter diploma *after* the Ph D in the field of automation.

Years ago, I thought of "documents" as legal papers or writings of historical importance. When I went to library school, I learned about government documents and the Superintendent of Documents. When I viewed some of those "govdocs," I was surprised to find that few looked like important legal papers or the venerable works of America's founding fathers. Instead, most were pamphlets on subjects like nutrition, products of the 50 states, and hog-farming. By the time I left library school, document came to mean just about any piece of text that I could hold in my hand: a book, a journal, a photocopied article. Today, I am comfortable using the term document to refer to files on my hard drive.

Levy broadens the term document further. His first chapter is a "Meditation on a [Cash Register] Receipt"! As he meditates, we marvel at the amount of information packed onto those small slips. Levy helps us see the extensive support system society has developed for receipts: rolls of specialized paper, ink, machines that do inventory control, repair services, training manuals, etc. Do not scoff at the resources expended on receipts. For receipts accomplish the amazing task of freezing time in our ever-changing world. As long as we can read the receipt, we know what happened at the time it was produced. Later, Levy devotes a chunk of another chapter to greeting cards.

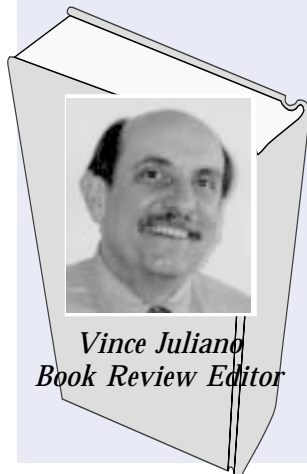
To me, greeting cards are supposed to be shortcuts. Instead of creating an attractive, well-thought-out personal letter, I buy

one copy of a mass-produced sentiment. Paradoxically, this shortcut always requires time and energy. Not just any card will do. It must fit the occasion and, because the card is going from me to a particular person, it must properly reflect our relationship. If the card is going to someone close, it should not be similar to others I have sent. Card chosen, I sit down to add a personal touch, bending the mass-produced artwork and verbal sentiment to my purpose and personality. Sound familiar? According to Levy, you probably do the same. Greeting cards, like all documents, fit into a social context. They are preservers of our relationships, our society, and our way of life.

Documents are "talking things . . . bits of the material world—clay, stone, animal skin, plant fiber, sand—that we've imbued with the ability to speak." We create them to speak for us, especially in our absence. From this point of view, Levy argues that computer files, emails, and Web pages are not replacing documents. Rather, electronic media are themselves documents performing the same functions that traditional documents have always carried out for us, but in ways that fit within the context of our twenty-first century needs. For this reason, Levy is not unduly alarmed by the ease with which electronic documents may be edited or destroyed. Our fast-paced existence requires rapid update. Yet, like earlier generations and civilizations, we require reliable and trusted means for preserving and accessing records of financial transactions, legal agreements, personal communications, and historical events. He is confident that we will find those means.

Finding reliable and trusted means of preserving and accessing information vital to our civilization may require people who are passionate about this challenge, people in the mold of Melville Dewey. Levy offers us a portrait of Dewey in stark

Continued on page 10



Layoffs and Budget Rescissions: The Impact on Public Libraries

Nearly 3000 state workers received layoff notices on December 6, 2002 as part of the governor's budget-balancing efforts. Included in the layoffs were 16 full time employees of the State Library/Commission on the Arts. The fourteen positions at the State Library (CSL) included librarians, library specialists, and library technicians. A number of these individuals have either no seniority or no bumping rights; they will be laid off. The library is just beginning to assess the impact of the lost positions; it will take time for all of the bumping and related dislocation to occur.

Also on December 6, the governor announced further reductions in state agency budgets. The plan presented to the Legislature for the December 18 Special Session recommends significant reductions in the CSL budget, including \$300,000 in funding for the CLSUs—half of their budget allocation for the year, which was reduced at the beginning of the fiscal year by \$217,000 from the previous year.

The timing of this proposal is most unfortunate. CSL is in the midst of a strategic planning process to determine the future of the CLSUs. To eliminate them abruptly will cause severe hardship for the libraries they serve.

To further complicate the situation, CLSU funding is included in the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) required to receive federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds. Program cuts at the beginning of the fiscal year had already dropped CSL below its required MOE. The proposed rescission of CLSU funding compounds the problem.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers LSCA funds, will not give the state a waiver due to statewide budget problems. Instead, they will reduce Connecticut's federal grant by the same percentage we are below our MOE. This means Connecticut is in danger of losing \$271,634 in federal funds next year. LSCA funding supports training programs, CCAR services, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Library Service Centers, and direct grants to libraries. ■

This article was written on December 17, 2002 as the Legislature prepared to go into Special Session.



Karen McNulty

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have Yourself a Merry Little Budget Reduction

"I will not let anyone down" was the election eve victory pledge from Governor Rowland, who then proceeded to slash the jobs of 2800 state employees, to take away aid from numerous public health agencies, to chop funding for municipalities and institutions of higher education, and to eliminate Cooperating Library Service Units and fourteen State Library positions.

The Grinch arrived early this year and I hope by the time you read this, sensible Cindy Loo Rell will have convinced him to ride into Whoville with some better news.

There's no doubt now, as Rowland's been drumming,
He must find a way to stop budgets from humming.
It could be his head isn't screwed on just right.
It could be his fists are too tight.
But the likeliest reason of all:
I think his collars are two sizes too small,
Cutting off blood to his cerebrum-on-call.

Connecticut's budget situation will be the major focus in government this year and will dominate the attention of both newly elected officials and legislators of longstanding. Who else was too optimistic, longing for past performance and hung over from memories of 1999?

- In June 2002, Denver Public Library was forced to cut \$1.5 million (26%) in books and materials for the Colorado Resource Center, which serves non-residents of Denver. Governor Bill Owens snatched a total of over \$4.5 million in cuts to Colorado libraries.
- In August 2002, Virginia's Governor Warner went sour in his new position and developed a revised revenue forecast that delivered massive cuts to the University of Virginia in the millions, including libraries, and a 7% reduction (\$40,000) to the 48,000 patrons of the Williamsburg area and other public libraries.
- In August 2002, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries was cut 4.75% (\$690,000) and was asked to reduce its FY03/04 budget by 5% more (\$328,000), affecting state aid grants, public library construction, literacy grants, books and materials, and staffing. Sneers to Governor Frank Keating.
- In October 2002, the Montana State Library Commission was twisted into sacrificing \$151,000 of a \$295,000 coal severance tax, forcing elimination of many services and collection growth to save InfoTrac. Growls to Governor Judy Martz.

Nasty lime green blizzards everywhere. And there's no roast beast on our table. It seems beyond even a Grinch to fathom Connecticut's devastation to its most essential human services. From what I observed at the budget hearings in Hartford in December, children and seniors and low-income people and students will suffer. Our government was shiny and silky when investments were happy but now it fails to take care of its citizens and their most basic needs. Stealing services that protect children, families and communities is outright manic. I'd rather pay 1/10 of 1% more in taxes to bring in \$100 million, and I'll pay even more to get more to lessen this unimaginable suffering. And to restore CLSUs and library jobs, of course.

This year will be the year when all of our collective wisdom, leadership, talent and perseverance will help us to serve those who are as challenged in their personal lives as we are in our professional lives. As librarians, we are more essential than ever, helping to hold our communities together while looking for our own dollars, and supporting our State Library as it navigates the stress. Our hearts are the right size. We have the power to change lives. We will do it.

Contact me at kmcnulty@avon.lib.ct.us. Better yet, contact your legislator.

HIGHLIGHTS

Public Comment President Karen McNulty read a letter to the board in which Stanford Warshasky, former director of the Norwalk PL, suggested that CLA develop a regular series of printed annotated bibliographies to be distributed free to CT public libraries. The idea was referred to the Editorial Committee for review. Michelle Foyt said that a similar service is available online at UConn.

President During the past month Karen McNulty attended a meeting of the Finance Committee, presented a Legislative Committee statement addressing Governor Rowland's budget reductions at the Appropriations and Finance Committee hearings, reported to the Connecticut State Library Board, attended a Career and Recruitment Committee meeting, and attended an ACLU talk on the Patriot Act among other duties.

Treasurer As of November 30, CLA had a balance of \$24,877 in its operating account and \$85,435 in its investment account.

Past President As chair of the Nominating Committee chair, Mary Engels is seeking candidates for vice-President/president elect, secretary treasurer elect, and Region 2 representative.

Finance The committee met with a Schwab Representative to discuss the CLA investment account. The CLA portfolio is well diversified in conservative funds. He recommended no changes. The board may undertake some fund raising activities.

Publicity Chris Bradley noted that the annual exhibit of library photos will be displayed in the LOB during the first two weeks of April.

YA Dawn Higginson and Marie Spratlin-Haaskarl reported that YA fantasy author Tamora Pierce will be their program speaker at the annual conference.

ADA The ADA Committee has had their first request for reimbursement for ten hours of service at a total of \$352.95. Their conference program will be "Add a Little LIFE" (Library Information for Everyone).

Career Recruitment Ida McGhee asked the board to consider expanding the CLA Scholarship Program to include two scholarships at \$500 each for LTA students at Three Rivers CC and Capitol CC. The committee proposed that the \$500 scholarship now offered to a second year MLS student at SCSU be used instead for one of the new LTA scholarships. An additional \$500 would be required for the second LTA scholarship. The board approved the changes and allocated the additional \$500 for the second LTA scholarship.

Conference Gail Hurley and Bridget Quinn-Carey noted that the conference mailer will go out by February 1. Simon Winchester will be the keynote speaker.

State Library Ken Wiggin reported on the governor's budget reductions. He noted the elimination of the 3rd and 4th quarter payments to the CLSU's (\$300,000) and the loss of 14 positions at CSL. The State Library has lost a total of \$800,000. He thanked those who addressed the Appropriations Committee and urged all board members to contact their legislators at this critical time. Time for Ideas in Libraries is not affected at this time; C-Car negotiations are at a standstill. (See the article on page 3).

Customer Service Co-chair, Linda Fenster has moved out of state and is being replaced by Carol Ogbaa of SCSU.

Legislative The committee prepared legislative testimony, which was presented by Karen McNulty at hearings on November 21 and December 11 to the Appropriations and Finance Committees. The committee also prepared a written statement from the CLA president to be emailed to each member of the committees. Work continues on the bookmark with the legislative agenda and the updating of the legislative links program.

NELA Kris Jacobi encouraged participation as a student or a mentor in the first ever New England Library Leadership Symposium to be held in July. (See the article on page 2)

CEMA A workshop, "Working With the Web: A Day with Walter Minkel," is scheduled for February 1 at the MCD Training Center in Hartford.

ACLB Suzanne Lee reported that planning has begun for their 2003 Leadership Conference, scheduled for November 9 at Water's Edge Resort.

Other Sandy Brooks is looking for a working librarian to teach a reference course at Three Rivers CC in the fall of 2003. Contact her at sbrooks@ecl.org



Young Milford Library patrons proudly display their first borrower's cards.

Photographs of Connecticut's libraries will be displayed in the Legislative Office Building concourse from April 1-15. Legislators and visitors to the Capitol reacted enthusiastically to similar exhibits in 2001 and 2002, in which over 100 libraries were represented. CLA will use the occasion of its annual Legislative Pot Luck Supper on April 2, from 4:30 to 6:30, to kick off the opening of the exhibit so that attendees can walk from the State Library to the LOB after supper to see the exhibit.

To be included in the exhibit, submit two dry mounted photographs (black & white or color) at least 11" x 14" of your library; one of the exterior and another of the interior, preferably focusing on a library activity. Photographs will not be returned but will be kept on file for future exhibits.

Contact Mary Engels at the Middletown Library Service Center for more details on submitting your photos: 800-437-2313 or mengels@cslib.org. Deadline for submissions is March 1.

Tamora Pierce Coming to CLA Conference

CLA's Young Adult Section will present Tamora Pierce, well-know children's and YA fantasy author, on Tuesday April 8, 2003 at the CLA Annual Conference. Pierce has written hundreds of books, including her series: *Protector of the Small*, *The Immortals*, and *Song of the Lioness*. Her stories usually feature strong female lead characters overcoming hardships and obstacles. In this male dominated genre, girls have found a new voice in Pierce's work—although boys seem to enjoy her books, too!

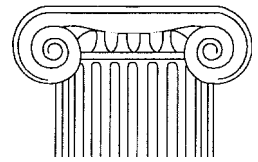
Pierce discovered writing in college and sold her first short story during her junior year, then enrolled in a fiction-writing course during her senior year. She has been writing ever since. Short stories progressed into novels, and she used childhood fantasies for story ideas.

Read her biography at <http://www.tamora-pierce.com/bio.htm> and come hear her in person on April 8. You will not be bored. ■



Pierce autographing books

HERITAGE



Early American settlers were products of a Western European culture that valued and acknowledged the importance of book collections, reading, and the pursuit of knowledge. Indeed, a literate society was the key to success in the eyes of the founding fathers as evidenced by institutional libraries such as the Massachusetts Historical Society, founded in 1791, as well as other societies developed in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine. These elite subscription libraries were founded by the upper classes; exclusive, costly, and unavailable to the common man. These libraries were as much social centers as intellectual centers and provided an important venue for the advancement of the social, economic, and intellectual success that followed in America.

The popularization of knowledge through public libraries and its accessibility to the working and agrarian classes accelerated slowly; first, in 1827, through the establishment of a publicly supported free library in Castine, Maine, where the town acquired a private library to start the first publicly supported library in America. Neighboring New Hampshire was first to enact a statewide law allowing towns to establish tax-supported public libraries.

By 1848, the demand for free public information drove the Massachusetts Legislature to allow Boston to use public funds to open the Boston Public Library, creating a model for a government-funded American public library. More importantly, this legislation established a public responsibility for libraries for the good of the people. Self-improvement and the rise of the middle class propelled the necessity for public libraries.

The transformation of craftsmanship from small cottage industries into factory production environments and the exponential expansion of mercantile business caused a breakdown of the old apprentice system, where trade skills were handed down through experience. An individualized apprentice model was too slow to meet the magnitude of workforce demand. The need for skilled craftsman propelled the concept of "mechanics' libraries" into reality. These institutions provided reading materials for apprentices to learn a trade independently through the written word. In 1829, the New York Apprentices Library housed 10,000 volumes that were used by 1600 apprentices daily. By 1857 this library served 750,000 people.

In Southington, Connecticut, libraries developed in ways that were very similar to those in other New England communities. The Rev. William Robinson, who opened his personal library to parishioners as a small circulating library in 1777, is most likely our earliest "librarian." In 1797, the Union Library was organized and continued through 1847 as a subscription library.

Driven by the Connecticut Public Library Act of 1894, which allowed towns to tax their residents for the establishment of public library service, Southington citizens conferred with Charles Hine, secretary to the State Board of Education, about the establishment of a free public library for the town.

The Union Grange subsequently pledged \$25 toward a public library provided the town would guarantee \$500 for

that purpose. A resolution was presented at the Town Meeting of January 1895 and voted down. It was not until December 1899 that the Hannah Woodruff DAR Chapter, with a gift of \$100 for a public library, challenged the town to appropriate not less than \$200 to the same end. Through this gesture, the town was mobilized, and nearly all the towns' organizations pledged \$1000 for a library. At the Town Meeting of January 1900, the 1895 resolution was resubmitted and approved, and nine library board directors were appointed.

Mrs. Sloper, the town's first librarian, reported that on May 2, 1900 a library consultant was hired from the Springfield (MA) City Library to organize the 1300 volumes thus far collected. On June 16, 1900 the Southington Free Public Library opened the doors of its temporary home in the Town Hall courtroom, and 110 books were checked out.

After unsuccessfully soliciting Andrew Carnegie for a library building, Stephen Walkley, chair of the building committee, offered \$5000 for a library building and the land it would stand upon, provided the town would match his gift. The town responded by appropriating the money in February 1900 and, after a great deal of hard work, Southington's first public library building was dedicated on November 5, 1902, the date we celebrate as the true beginning of public library service in Southington.

Ironically, during the 1902 opening ceremonies, the library's founders noted the lack of adequate funding, an immediate need for additional space, and called for a plan for future expansion. I can only imagine the commitment, initiative, and achievement felt by each of the founders. Their understanding of the future and ability to execute a difficult task was remarkable. Their foresight led to the Sylvia Bradley addition, dedicated on June 16, 1932.

The original building and its addition fostered service and sustained the library program through 1975 when the current library building was opened. Once again, community support allowed the town to build a wonderful new library building directly across the street from its early 20th century predecessor. This modern building, over six times the size of the original, was designed to meet community needs for the ensuing 20 years. Today, standing where our founding fathers stood 100 years ago, we are prepared to continue their good work and to plan for the future. A future, I believe to be bright and exciting.

Jay Johnston is the director of the Southington Library & Museum. This article is an edited version of remarks he made at the observance of the library's 100th anniversary.



Southington library staff celebrate 100 years of service to their community.

Southington Library And Museum

Celebrating a Century of Service

by Jay Johnston

Tomorrow's Technology Today

A Report on the Fourth Annual CLASS Conference

compiled by
Sandy Brooks

The CLA Support Staff section (CLASS) held its fourth successful annual conference at Manchester Community College on November 1 with the theme, "Tomorrow's Technology Today." Over 100 library assistants attended, eager to network, learn new skills, and grow professionally.

Pam Perll, CLASS co-chair and MCC representative, welcomed attendees, followed by keynote speaker, James Kusack of SCSU, who spoke about technology trends, including the continuing trends of "smaller, cheaper, faster," which have been the norm in technology development for the past twenty years or more. CLA president Karen McNulty then spoke briefly about CLA and its annual conference, scheduled for April 7-9 in Mystic.

The day was divided into three sessions, with four workshop choices in each session. The first session offered hands-on "Business Reference on the Web" with Jennifer Keohane of Simsbury PL. Each attendee had a workstation with a live Internet connection in the MCC Library's computer teaching lab. Keohane took the group through Internet portals and websites in the field of business information, demonstrating features, options, and information content.

The web tour included two iconn.org databases: "Gale's Company & Business Resource Center" and "Infotrac Onfile." Other sites visited were: lii.org, ceoexpress.com, sbdnet.utsa.edu, ecola.com, finance.yahoo.com, bigcharts.com, jobstar.org, and ctjobandcareer.org.

Donna Flatley of ECL presented a workshop titled, "Making E-Mail Real Mail." Participants learned how to manage their mailbox in Microsoft Outlook, including: how to set up shortcuts, delete junk mail, set up rules with Rules Wizard, link MS Outlook with Outlook Express, set up meetings and appointments, and more. In another workshop, "Technology Roundtable," James Kusack lead a discussion of how technology affects our daily work. It was a great group for sharing and participating.

In the final morning workshop, twenty enthusiastic people joined Anne Falkowski, co-owner of Samadhi Yoga Studio, for "Unwind and Relax: Yoga for Beginners." We sat on the floor and, as soothing music played in the background, were led through an introduction to basic yoga postures that encompassed meditation, stretching and balancing. We left this workshop relaxed but energized and, as someone said as we left, "That was better than a massage!"

Next, attendees enjoyed box lunches in the "fireside room" of the MCC Library. This was a chance to meet peers and network informally,

and to ask questions of presenters and speakers who joined us for lunch.

After lunch, Alberta Richetelle from the UConn Health Center led a workshop on "Health Resources on the Web," providing tips on searching for health information. Participants learned how to find information on diseases and disorders, how to research medical personnel to see if a health care provider has been cited for violations, how to evaluate a health resource, and where to find articles and books on specific topics. Everyone was amazed at the amount of information available on Healthnet and how easy it is to use. Try it yourself at <http://library.uhc.edu/departm/hnet>.

Another workshop, "Making Flyers that Really Fly: Using Microsoft Publisher," in which participants learned to create a library event flyer, was led by Donna Flatley. Everyone managed to finish a flyer and received a certificate for participation.

In "Basic AV Repair," Judy Ceccarini and Carol Tylor from CSL led a group through hands-on repair of audio and videotapes. The small audiotapes were frustrating to work with; videos seem a more likely candidate for in-house repair. If nothing else, some people walked away with the knowledge that it's worth paying for replacement audiotapes instead of using staff time to do delicate repair work!

A "Public Services Roundtable" offered an opportunity to discuss the low dollar reimbursement for ConnectiCar service and limiting circulation to local residents, getting along with co-workers, guidelines for circulation policies, increased use of public libraries, staff reduction, overdue fines, and how the library culture has changed. Overall, the session brought out many important issues.

The final session included a "Technical Services Roundtable," which began with a description of what technical services were like years ago—with accession lists, shelflist cards, and so forth—compared to what it means to work in automated technical services today. Some staff are cross-trained, working in both circulation and technical services, giving them a better idea of patrons' needs. A continuing thread in this discussion was that technical services *are* customer services. Library staff rely on technical services for accurate information, which in turn means good customer service.

"LTA Education Options" was a workshop designed to give attendees information about pursuing library education in CT. The panel consisted of a faculty member from SCSU,

Continued on page 9

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 made many Americans aware, for the first time, how little they knew about a culture that became, suddenly, of such relevance to their lives. The Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC), through Time for Ideas in Libraries (TFIL), responded quickly to the growing interest and concern of Connecticut citizens by launching, in Spring 2002, "The World of Islam," a pilot program of one-session book discussions that explore the religion, history, politics, and culture of the Middle East. Also included is a session on American Muslims, members of the third largest—and one of the fastest growing—religious communities in the United States.

An initial planning meeting in December 2001 brought together a small group of talented scholars, most of whom had lived and/or traveled extensively in the Middle East. Each provided expertise in one or more of the topics along with experience in facilitating adult discussions. A productive brainstorming session resulted in recommendations for the readings that would serve as the basis for each of the five topics. Valuable feedback from the participants in the pilot sessions alerted us to overall dissatisfaction with two of the titles—the book on the religion of Islam was considered too academic and dense while the book exploring American Muslims was described as unchallenging with too narrow a personal perspective. Additional funding from CHC made it possible to purchase replacement titles; both new books have received positive ratings from participants. See the sidebar for a list of titles and authors.

We created an organizational strategy that would offer participants a variety of options. By "clustering" the ten libraries into two groups of five neighboring libraries, with each book discussion taking place on a different night, a participant could choose to attend the session hosted by his home library or create his own "mini-seminar" by reading the books and engaging in the discussions hosted by the four other libraries within the cluster.

"The World of Islam" program generated widespread enthusiasm, responding to the individual's need, not only for information, but also for interacting within a community. The library provided a familiar and safe space where people could read a common book and come together to raise questions, voice opinions, and share reactions to the book—and the topic. The presence of the scholar, someone with both expertise in the subject and skills in facilitating a discussion, guaranteed that civility would be

maintained, that each person's opinion would be treated with respect, and that the focus would be on the book. Given the intensity of emotion evoked in the aftermath of 9/11, this proved to be crucial to the success of the discussions.

"The World of Islam" program yielded a fair number of unanticipated challenges as well as gratifying outcomes. Despite widely distributed PR materials describing the book to be read in preparation for the program and despite the thirty-five copies of the books prominently displayed in the libraries' bookshelves, many people came to the library expecting a lecture! Our discussion leaders proved astonishingly adept at improvisation—providing background in the particular topic, fielding questions, filling in gaps in information, and returning, whenever possible, to the book as the springboard for the discussion. In anticipation of the next round of programs, we asked discussion leaders to create a core list of questions that librarians would place alongside the books to encourage participants to read and focus on major themes. This strategy has increased the percentage of participants who read parts, or all, of the book, and actively contribute to the discussion.

The program reached beyond the library walls, attracting participants who are not typical library users. Librarians remarked on the large number of patrons who had never before attended a book discussion at the library. The composition of the audience also deviated from the norm, with many more men and a much wider age range than the typical TFIL audience. Attendance averaged thirty-

Continued on page 9

Responding To 9/11

Time for Ideas in Libraries Offers the "World of Islam"

by Sue Eisner

"The World of Islam" Books



Between Memory and Desire: The Middle East in a Troubled Age by Stephen R. Humphries who brings an historian's perspective to the Middle East and poses incisive questions and convincing arguments in a scholarly but accessible book.

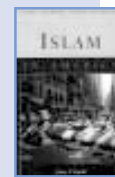
Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East edited by Donna Lee Bowen, an anthology of short writings that focus on the experiences of ordinary men, women, and children and conveys a "grassroots" sense of Middle East culture and society today.



Guests of the Sheikh: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village, a memoir written in the mid 1950's by Elizabeth Warnock Fernea, an American woman who lived in a small village in Southern Iraq in the company of her anthropologist husband, spending her days behind a veil alongside the women of the harem.

Islam: An Introduction by Annemarie Schimmel corrects many popular and erroneous notions about Islam that prevail in non-Muslim societies and includes sections on women, marriage, inheritance, and the *jihad*, nearly always completely misunderstood in the press.

Islam in America by Jane I. Smith, a portrait of the Muslim community in the United States today, introduces the basic tenets of the Muslim faith, surveys the history of Islam in this country, and profiles the lifestyles, religious practices, and worldviews of American Muslims.





TECHNOLOGY

Knock, Knock! Who's There?



*Isabel Danforth
Technology Columnist*

The most amazing discovery I have made is how many people are knocking on the door of my computer and trying to get in.

When we connect to the Internet, much of what we view contains advertisements. Naturally, those who pay to display those ads want to know if people are viewing and responding to them, and they do their best to measure that. For example, if you download and install the free version of Eudora, a popular email client, it will display advertisements in the lower left hand corner of your window. Having those ads there is part of the agreement you make with Eudora to obtain the software for no charge.

Other pieces of software being installed on your computer are not so obvious. For example, Aureate Radiate is installed when you download *any* of over 250 pieces of free software.

According to Microsoft, "The Radiate program is activated when you start Internet Explorer or when you start the associated program that contains the Radiate program. The Radiate component pulls down banner ads for display in the respective software. The Radiate software monitors which banner ads you click and how much time you spend reading a given banner. If you are online, this information is sent immediately to Radiate. If you are offline, the information is stored and transmitted the next time you go online.

Monitoring advertising may be reasonable for companies to do; however, one can never know what else these installed programs might be doing on your computer. Since they are installed independently, they could be checking files on your hard drive, monitoring keystrokes, and even sending out advertising information to other people across the Internet. At the very least, they are using resources on your computer.

The June 11, 2002 issue of *PC Magazine* has an article, at <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,41909,00.asp>, that lists software to remove spyware, such as Radiate. It rates the free Ad-Aware program highly.

Downloading and setting up Ad-Aware is easy; it found over 20 registry keys for a number of different spyware programs on my system the first time I ran it. I created a backup of all the items that it found and then had Ad-Aware remove them. When I ran the program a second time, I found that Eudora had reinstalled the software required to run my free version. I placed these files on my ignore list and I have not heard complaints from Ad-Aware since then.

Now that my machine was not reporting my activities to the rest of the world, I wanted to find out who might be trying to communicate with my computer. A firewall monitors and blocks incoming and outgoing traffic on your computer. If you have a fixed address and/or a broadband connection to the Internet a firewall is necessary. I decided to play with a free firewall on my home computer. I have a dial-up connection and figured that since I get a new IP address each time I dial in, not much would be happening.

I installed a free firewall called Zone Alarm. When I first configured it, I added a number of programs that I knew I

would be using to access the Internet. However, each time I opened a program needed to connect to the Internet, a dialog box appeared and Windows Explorer asked for permission to access the Internet, I replied "No." My rule became: Unless I know what is happening, the answer is "no."

To test this, I opened a new word document and typed www.yahoo.com and clicked on that link. The ZoneAlarm Alert window popped up asking permission for Word to access the Internet. I replied "No," but did not check a small box that told ZoneAlarm to remember this answer. Some day I may want to use Word to connect to the Internet.

The most amazing discovery I have made is how many people are knocking on the door of my computer and trying to get in. ZoneAlarm Alert shows that someone with an IP address of 63.208.239.244 was trying to connect to my computer and was being blocked. I performed a lookup of that IP address and found that it belonged to someone who was dialing into the Internet in Los Angeles. I cannot help but wonder if that person has an infected computer that is continually sending out probes trying to find open machines on which to load some software. After a few weeks of using the Internet and getting many many of these Alert windows, I finally did check that box that says do not show again. ZoneAlarm has a log file that lists all of these attempts.

Do I feel safer and more private now while I am connected to the Internet? I am not sure. Running Ad-Aware and removing these hidden processes has resulted in performance improvements on some computers. Perhaps if I paid for my version of Eudora, I would have a lot more privacy. In general I do keep cookies turned on, a convenience that I choose, knowing that more people will know something about me.

I was amazed at the rate of attempted intrusions coming across the Internet. These intrusions could be people attempting to load software, which might be used for denial-of-service attacks or other nefarious deeds. Denial-of-service attacks occur when many requests are sent to one site on the Internet at the same time. This clogs that part of the network so that legitimate users cannot reach the site. I cannot imagine what else someone might want to load onto my computer.

Running and monitoring both of these pieces of software has taught me a lot more about what is happening on my computer and has forced me to make some decisions about the kinds of activity I want to have occur on my computer. As a result of doing the research for this article, I am thinking of paying for Eudora and getting rid of the spyware that comes with their free email.

Isabel Danforth is head of technology services, Russell Library, Middletown; and chair of the CLA Information Technology Roundtable.

RESPONDING TO 9/11

Continued from page 7

five participants per book discussion, considerably more than the average twenty-two participants in our traditional four-session programs.

Another unanticipated outcome was the number of Muslims attending the programs, allowing participants to meet, often for the first time, Muslims of Middle Eastern descent. Many attended both to express a minority point of view and to refute what they felt was an increasingly stereotypical image of Muslims and the religion and culture of the Middle East. For the most part, participants treated each other's views with respect and were receptive to learning more about Islamic culture and beliefs through first person accounts.

By the end of the Spring 2003 season, forty libraries will have hosted a one-session "World of Islam" program. Each season brings improvements with more participants reading the book and attending the sessions offered at the four other libraries in their region. Discussion leaders have received very high ratings; many are invited back by the library for additional programs. A small sampling of the positive feedback from the many enthusiastic attendees is the best testimony to the success of the program: "This was a wonderful program and the presenter was superb—very well informed, skilled at encouraging discussion and audience participation, a very good teacher. Please continue to create and offer such programs. They are invaluable." ■

Sue Eisner is project director for Time for Ideas in Libraries.

TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY TODAY

Continued from page 6

which offers the only MLS and undergraduate library science degree programs in CT, and the coordinators of the LTA certificate programs at Capital CC in Hartford, and Three Rivers CC in Norwich. Requirements for all programs were presented, as well as options for continuing education through online courses and in-state workshops.

Finally, "From Ideas to Reality: Programs for Children and Adults" led by a panel of four library assistants and librarians, provided a forum for discussion of programming policy. Topics included: whether or not to charge fees, criteria for children's as opposed to adult programs, whether to serve refreshments, selling a performer's product, and paying for outside

The First Connecticut Book Awards

The Connecticut Center for the Book at Hartford Public Library presented the first Connecticut Book Awards on December 8, in the Hartford City Hall.

Presented in partnership with Connecticut Forum, Connecticut Public Broadcasting and *Preview Connecticut*, the awards honored the literary efforts of Connecticut authors and of authors who have used the state as the setting for their works.

Hosted by founding president of Connecticut Forum Richard Sugarman, with remarks by John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the awards ceremony recognized individuals in seven categories. Best selling novelist Wally Lamb was the keynote speaker.

Thirty-five people distinguished in the fields of writing, librarianship, book arts, academe, journalism, and publishing served as judges. Books eligible for consideration were written by authors who live or have lived in the state or that have a Connecticut setting. Anthologies were accepted if all authors were Connecticut-based. Books must have been published between January 1 and December 31, 2001, and an author could be recognized for more than one book per year. The winners and finalists of the 2002 Connecticut Book awards are:



Char Miller

Biography *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism* by Char Miller

Children's Literature *Carver: A Life in Poems* by Marilyn Nelson

Design *Carver: A Life in Poems* designed by Helen Robinson for Front Street Press, Inc.

Fiction *The Gardens of Kyoto* by Kate Walbert

Nonfiction *Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan and *I Knew a Woman* by Cortney Davis

Poetry *Carver: A Life in Poems* by Marilyn Nelson

Lifetime Achievement For Service To The Literary Community Alexander Taylor and Judith Doyle, Curbstone Press



Marilyn Nelson



Kate Walbert



Cortney Davis

performers. Goals, publicity, evaluations and the intended audience were also discussed, proving that programming involves a lot more than just coming up with an idea!

Evaluation forms indicate that the conference was a positive experience for attendees. This year's conference committee included: Kris Golden and Sylvia Gaber of WLSC, Pam Perll & Diana Paris of MCC, Tzou Min Hsiung of CCSU, former LTA Alan Eddy, Lylah Franco of Sacred Heart University Library, and Sandy Brooks of ECL. Many thanks to our speakers, attendees, and others who made the day a great success! ■

Sandy Brooks is assistant director for Eastern CT Libraries and CLA's liaison to the LTA program at Three Rivers Community College.

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CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

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JOBLINE
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THE HOG WHAT?

Continued from page 1

ture the "cool stuff" that too few people know about. We were energized as we realized how much research was being done in the region, how much of the historic record was preserved in our institutions. All we needed was a way to disseminate the stories. How hard could that be?

First we needed a name. There were many suggestions including Harriet (as in Beecher Stowe), What Happened Here, Hartford Heritage, and HARTFORD. "H" was even on the table at one point, though we soon decided that the association with heroin was a tad too problematic. *Hog River Journal* finally won because it's a local name that has symbolic merit (the buried story), it's memorable, and, we hope, an attention grabber. People either love the name or hate it. At least it doesn't generate indifference.

Next we pulled together articles, photographs, and features for a prototype. That was the easiest part of the endeavor. As we were all associated with heritage sites, research institutions, and regional studies programs, we had knowledge of wonderful papers and images on all sorts of under-documented subjects. Our theme for the prototype, which with minor changes became the first issue, was "A Sense of Place." We wanted the features to explore a variety of the themes that we intend to cover: social, ethnic, architectural, labor, gender, and leisure histories, all within the region of Central Connecticut.

We also discussed reoccurring departments, and decided on four:

- **Re: Collections** focuses on the contextual importance of an object from the collection of an area institution. (An Uncle Tom's Cabin-inspired vase from the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, which nearly defies description, is highlighted in our first issue.)
- **Shoebox Archives** features a first person account of a notable past event. (In the next issue we learn why drunken Trinity College students in 1906 were dressed up as Native Americans to the delight of Hartford's finest.)
- **Destinations** features a locale in the area that may not get as much foot traffic as it merits.
- **Soap Box** is an opinion column.

Once we had the contents, graphic designer John Alves put it all together in a beautiful prototype that Elizabeth used to raise interest and, more importantly, money.

It will probably come as no shock to anyone that raising money was the most difficult part. A grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council helped with market research, and the Greater Hartford Arts Council was financially

supportive, but early ideas that the journal could be grant funded proved unrealistic. People loved the prototype, but funding a journal did not fall within the missions of most grantors.

Our organizational partners, Trinity College, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hill-Stead Museum, Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Amistad Foundation, and Hartford Public Library, provided seed money and in-kind support to get us off the ground. Long-term financial viability, we soon realized, would come from ad sales and subscriptions. Elizabeth, tirelessly knocking on doors and pursuing leads, eventually found Hometown Marketing, a local company that sells ads for playbills and, now, cultural heritage journals. Through ad sales, subscriptions, and individual and institutional support Elizabeth was able to raise enough money to fund our first year.

Our theme for issue two, due out in January, is "The Built Environment," and we are well into the planning of issue three. The *Hog River Journal*, years in the making, is finally a reality. We think of the journal as "a meeting place in print" and we encourage anyone to propose story ideas and writers. For those of you who are interested in the fascinating, seldom told stories of our region, this is your journal.

The *Hog River Journal* is available through area museum shops and bookstores. To subscribe, send an email to HogRiverJrnl@aol.com. ■

Janice Mathews is social sciences librarian at the Trecker Library, UConn/Greater Hartford.

LOOKING AT BOOKS

Continued from page 2

contrast to our profession's contemporary image. He sees Dewey as a man on a mission, someone who believed that the world needed to be "shaped, bent, and controlled." Dewey employed his charisma, intelligence, and dynamism to force order, efficiency, and bureaucratic organization on the world of documents. A compulsive reformer, a man of boundless energy, a nineteenth century change agent, Dewey no doubt saw himself as a preserver, a defender of civilization against the chaos of disorganization.

Levy sees the term "information economy" as a misnomer because economics involves "scarce resources." Since we are drowning in information, we need ways to allocate our scarce attention to that flood. Perhaps librarians can help manage the "attention economy." Levy discusses the concept of digital libraries, pointing out that there is no consensus on what that term means, partly because the term library denotes both an organized collection of documents and the institution that organizes them. He reminds us that reading is not always just for information. Some reading requires deep attention in an atmosphere that supports reflection. It may be that society seeks from libraries what it needs from its documents: stability in times of change.

Read more reviews by Vince Juliano at <http://cla.lib.uconn.edu>

Nominations Sought for CLA Awards 2003

OUTSTANDING LIBRARIAN

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

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

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

NEWS MEDIA AWARD

This award honors an individual journalist or news organization for coverage of libraries and/or the principles of librarianship in an exemplary way during the past year. The nominee may be an individual, such as a reporter or columnist; an editorial board; or a news organization such as a newspaper, magazine,

radio or TV station. Exemplary media coverage can be evidenced through editorials, features, news reporting and/or special event reporting. Coverage may focus on library issues such as services to special populations and other appropriate topics. Copies of articles and other material should be submitted with this nomination.

ADELINE MIX AWARD

This award honors a full or part-time student in an approved graduate or undergraduate program, and enables the student to attend the CLA Annual Conference in April 2003. A grant of \$250 will be awarded to cover conference registration, meals, and accommodations. Applicants must be a member of CLA, and the winner must sign an agreement promising to attend the Awards Ceremony and to write a brief article on his or her impressions of the conference for *Connecticut Libraries*. Applications may be no longer than two typed pages and must include the following information: status of current library school studies, education, degrees and honors, statement of need, and completion of a narrative describing how attendance at the conference will assist the candidate's professional development.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

This award recognizes an individual for the demonstration of extraordinary personal courage in the defense of intellectual freedom; or for the implementation of a successful and creative project developed to raise awareness of intellectual freedom issues; or for a published work on intellectual freedom.

Additional Awards

See details at <http://cla.uconn.edu>

CLASS

The CLA Support Staff Section offers two awards: Support Staff of the Year and Supporter of Support Staff of the Year. Contact Pam Perll, pperll@commnet.edu; 860-512-3421

Faith Hektoen

Eligibility For Career Achievement—Any person or group/organization that has had a significant impact on library service to children in CT at the local, regional, and/or state level.

Eligibility For Outstanding Program—Any program that has taken place during the last two years or an on-going program that has made a significant impact on library service to children in CT at the local, regional, and/or state level.

Who may nominate? *For Career Achievement*—Colleagues, peers, directors, supervisors of nominee, Friends, trustees. *For Outstanding Program*—Creator(s) of or person(s) who conducted program or service, colleagues, peers, directors, supervisors, Friends, trustees. If a group nominates, designate a single contact person.

Deadline February 1, 2003

Forms and Information Bina Williams, Bridgeport PL, 925 Broad Street, Bridgeport CT 06604; 203-576-7409 or bwilliams@brdgrprtl.lib.ct.us.

Publications

See page 12

Awards 2003 Instructions and Nomination Form

Use this form only for the five awards described above.

- For complete details about all CLA awards, please see <http://cla.uconn.edu>
- Applications must be received by March 1, 2003.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- A committee of seven will judge the nominations; the entry must include seven copies each of:
 - A narrative explaining the nominee's contributions relative to the award
 - Letters of support or information from others
 - The nomination form

Send seven copies of all qualifying information for the five awards described above by **March 1, 2003** to: Melanie Lauer, CLA Awards, c/o Ferguson Library, Information Services, 1 Public Library Plaza, Stamford, CT 06904.

Check One Award:

- Outstanding Librarian Special Achievement
 News Media Adeline Mix
 Intellectual Freedom

Person or Organization nominated: _____

Library Affiliation (if any): _____

2003 CLA Publications Awards Contest

The Contest

The CLA Publicity committee sponsors the annual Publications Awards Contest. Member libraries may submit materials designed and produced by their library to promote a library concept or event. A panel of two or more designers/artists and a representative from the library field will choose the winning entries. Winners will be displayed at the 112th CLA Annual Conference, April 8–9, 2003 at the Mystic Marriott. Winners will be honored at the CLA Awards Reception.

How to Enter

- Send 3 originals of each entry with a photocopy of the ENTRY FORM (below) attached to each original. For the POSTER, VIDEO and WEBSITE categories, only 1 copy is needed. For WEBSITES, please just send the URL.
- Items created during calendar year 2002 are eligible.
- A library may submit one entry per category.
- Submit entries by **March 1, 2003** to: Susan Muro, Time for Ideas in Libraries, 2911 Dixwell Avenue, Suite 201, Hamden, CT 06518.

Important Notes

- Entries will be judged for content, originality, and design. Judges' decisions are final.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Entries that do not comply with the rules will be disqualified.
- Judges have the option of breaking a tie (1st and 2nd place awarded)

Entry Form – 2003 CLA Publications Awards Contest

(Check one category and attach a copy of this form to EACH of the 3 originals.)

- Annual Report Bibliography Bookmark Brochure Calendar
 Newsletter Poster Program Flyer Website
 Promotional Item (object: AV, pin, etc.) Thematic Project (3 + coordinating items)

Library Director: _____

Library: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Designer(s): _____

Publication's Purpose and Marketing Plan (50 words or less):

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