

CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of
the Connecticut
Library
Association

A Connecticut Yankee in Alexander's Court

by Karen Bohrer

Showing a library user how to perform a search using EBSCOhost was something I'd done many times before. Dealing with snakes emerging from the copy machine was an entirely new experience.

After spending my professional career, more than 20 years, in public libraries in the United States, I took a job at the American College of Thessaloniki, Greece. I had always dreamed of living and working abroad, and in February 2002 that

dream was realized. The combination of the strange and the familiar has made the past year particularly exciting, although, when is a librarian's job *not* exciting these days?

The Bissell Library of the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT), of which I am the director, was named for the chair of our board of trustees, who provided much of the vision and the funding to build it. The new 4500 square meter (I have to think metric now) library building was in the final phase of construction when I arrived. Although ACT had existed as an institution of higher education for a over 20 years, it had shared facilities with the six-year Greek high school called Anatolia College ("college" means something different here than in does in the US) of which ACT is a division. However, with more than 700 undergraduates—Greeks, students from Balkan countries, and Americans in study-abroad programs—and the launching of its first graduate program (MBA) in the fall of 2002, it had become clear that ACT needed a library of its own.

The new library has space for 100,000 volumes (it now houses around 15,000), seating for 250 users, 50 public access computers with many more to be added over the next few years, and nine group study rooms. Also occupying the two floors that are the library proper are staff and faculty

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Rhonda Idleman (above), librarian at the West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington, prepared her students to vote for the 2003 Nutmeg Book Award using a voting machine sponsored by the Farmington Library. With 3605 votes, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo nosed out *Fever 1793*, with 3334 votes, to become the 2003 Nutmeg Children's Book Award winner. *The Elevator Family* placed third with 2908 votes. In all, 19,252 votes were cast, an increase of 1152 over last year.

Sponsored by CLA and CEMA, participation in the Nutmeg Award continues to grow each year. This year, 80 new schools and libraries sent in ballots. For a complete list of the voting results, including the top ten reporting towns, go to the Nutmeg website. There, you will also find the list of Nutmeg nominees for 2004 and instructions for entering the Nutmeg Poster Contest. See www.biblio.org/nutmegaward ■

<http://cla.uconn.edu>

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What's in a Word?

by Andy Thibault

Marilyn Nelson, Connecticut Poet Laureate, responded with dignity to bad manners exhibited by [her] would-be White House hosts.

Thank you, Laura Bush, phony librarian, for bringing Langston Hughes back to life. I was wondering how you could celebrate the work of a man who wrote books like "The Ways of White Folks." Now, as we all know, you were only pretending. This man, Langston Hughes, exposed your America, then and now, when he wrote the poem "Let America Be America Again":

I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.
Hughes wrote of an America that, in his experience, never was:
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.
(It was never America to me.)

No wonder the White House is terrified by anyone who would take Langston Hughes seriously. No wonder the White House postponed a poetry

symposium—scheduled for February 12—out of fear that those big mean poets would protest the pending war with Iraq.

The cowardice and the poverty of ideas exhibited by the White House are palpable. If war with Iraq is such a great idea, why not have the guts and the integrity to discuss it with a group of America's finest poets? None of the scores of great librarians I know would ever cancel such an event for fear of public discourse. Laura Bush should stop passing herself off as a former librarian.

Thank you, Marilyn Nelson, Connecticut Poet Laureate, for your backbone. You also responded with dignity to bad manners exhibited by your would-be White House hosts.

Nelson was among the poets invited—and then disinvented—to the symposium. The event was also supposed to honor Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Nelson laughed about the White House party line: These poets were going to go political and
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BOOKS

LOOKING AT

How to be Alone: Essays by Jonathan Franzen (Farrar, 2003)

A Review by Christine Bradley

Jonathan Franzen took on Oprah and publicly humiliated himself. Although he was already forty when *The Corrections* was published, I thought he must be 29. Anyone over 30 has learned that witty repartee should be confined to friends' homes. While the world may sometimes suffer fools, intellectual snobs are left to flounder.

In the essay "Meet Me in St. Louis," Oprah's crew insists on filming Franzen in the nearby suburb where he grew up, instead of in New York, where he now lives. According to Franzen, "If the producers wanted me to be Midwestern, I would try to be Midwestern." The essay illustrates both his antagonistic relationship with Oprah's crew and his painful return to the old neighborhood. He describes attending a party given for him by friends of his diseased parents as, "the mysterious basic substance of the loss. To put my arms around women with whom my mother had played bridge for much of her life, to shake the large hands of men with whom my father had cleared brush or found fault with Ronald Regan's presidency, was to feel loss and its contrary simultaneously."

When Oprah's crew wants to film him in the house in which he grew up, now inhabited by another family, Franzen blurts out, "This is so fundamentally bogus!" and "I'll get in trouble for this." Does he ever! Not only do "outraged populists" revile him for his unguarded remarks about the Book Club, but his East Coast media colleagues also attack him with some pretty colorful language. However, it was not "a pompous prick, an ego-blinded snob, [or] a spoiled, whiny little brat" who wrote these fourteen insightful, compelling works of social criticism.

In the award-winning essay, "My Father's Brain," Mr. and Mrs. Earl Franzen bear a striking resemblance to Enid and Alfred from *The Corrections*. But it is Alzheimer's, not Parkinson's, against which Franzen's father struggles. The essay is personal and loving, yet includes scientific research

about Alzheimer's. Franzen learns that the decline of a patient mirrors, in reverse, the neurological development of a child. The earliest capacities a child develops—raising the head, smiling, and sitting up unassisted—are the last that the Alzheimer's patient loses. Franzen describes his father's last Thanksgiving:

"The images are awful to me now. My father listing in his wheelchair like an unstrung marionette, eyes mad and staring, mouth sagging, glasses smeared with strobe light and nearly falling off his nose. But when my brothers called to wish him a happy holiday, here, out of the blue, he mustered a smile and a hearty voice, he was able to answer simple questions, and he thanked them both for calling."

Franzen explains, "Because children learn social skills very early, a capacity for gestures of courtesy and phrases of vague graciousness survives in many Alzheimer's patients long after their memories are shot. It wasn't so remarkable that my father was able to handle my brothers' holiday calls." About his father's deterioration and death, Franzen concludes, "By the time my father's heart stopped, I'd been mourning him for years."

"Why Bother," is Franzen's controversial investigation of the fate of the American novel. Franzen bemoans the fact that novels do not matter to American culture the way they used to. He notes, "in a recent USA Today survey of twenty-four hours in the life of American culture, there were twenty-one references to television, eight to film, seven to popular music, four to radio, and one to fiction (*The Bridges of Madison County*)." Librarians will recognize many of our own concerns as Franzen documents his angst with other evidence of the decline of reading. He examines competing claims like those of Anthony Lane. In his *New Yorker* essays, Mr. Lane demonstrates that "while most of the novels on the contemporary best-seller list
Continued on page 3



LOOKING AT BOOKS

Continued from page 2

are vapid, predictable, and badly written, the best-sellers of fifty years ago were also vapid, predictable, and badly written."

Franzen also takes aim at quirky, complex societies outside America's mainstream. "Lost in the Mail" describes the Chicago post office bureaucracy and the men and women who try to remain human in an impossible situation. "Control Units" is a personal, inside look at the prison business in Fremont County, Colorado, home to eight of Colorado's nine prisons. Fremont County sees incarceration as a growth industry. Franzen penetrates the Federal Correctional Complex, a \$60,000,000 facility known as the Alcatraz of the Rockies.

How can one resist this over-forty angry young man who intends this book to be "a movement away from an angry and frightened isolation toward an acceptance—even a celebration—of being a reader and a writer." He concludes, "Not that there's not still plenty to be mad and scared about. Our national thirst for petroleum, which has already produced two Bush presidencies and an ugly Gulf War, is now threatening to lead us into an open-ended long-term conflict in Central Asia." Stay angry, Jonathan, and take that, Oprah!

Guest reviewer Christine Bradley is the director of Eastern Connecticut Libraries.

Vince Juliano, *CL's* book review editor, will retire in April from the Waterford Public Library, where he has served as director for twenty-three years. Vince has held virtually every position available within the Connecticut Library Association, including that of president in 1981/



Vince Juliano

82. Currently, he serves as chair of the Procedures Committee and as a member of the Editorial Committee. Vince will continue to participate actively in library and municipal administration circles. He is teaching a management strategies course this semester at Three Rivers Community College and recently presented a workshop for supervisory personnel in municipal government. He will continue to offer seminars in library management and public service administration and will seek opportunities to build on and expand his skills and experiences as a librarian, manager, writer, teacher, computer enthusiast, and technology gadfly. Those of you who have enjoyed his reviews in this newsletter for many years can rest easy; he also plans to continue as *CL's* book review editor. ■

Connecticut Libraries solicits articles, news, opinions, and photographs about matters of interest to the state's library community. Send contributions to:

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*Deadline: Second
Thursday of the month.*



Karen McNulty

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Conferences, Rallies & Resolutions

Each year, the CLA Annual Conference offers library staff and other members of the Connecticut library community a special opportunity for professional growth and refreshment. This year, the conference is located in a beautiful new facility—the Mystic Marriott in Groton, an area steeped in culture, recreation, great libraries and restaurants, and ocean air.

With winter behind us, (one can only hope), plan to escape from your day-to-day routine for a day or two and indulge in a broad range of activities and programs designed to stimulate your psyche and enrich your career. The importance of our daily work is made clear to us when we share our views and talents with our colleagues. We crave renewal and the potential it offers for each of us to remain creative. Use the drive to Groton as an opportunity to contemplate how you will avail yourself of this once-a-year opportunity.

CLA has kept its membership dues, based on salary level, and conference fees fair and affordable. New members who join CLA by March 15 will receive 16 months of membership, instead of the usual 12, and will save \$20 on conference registration fees. For details, call the CLA office at 860-465-5006, or e-mail cla@ecl.org, or check the web site at <http://cla.uconn.edu>.

Rally for Connecticut's Libraries Two other critically important upcoming events, both scheduled for April 2, are the statewide "Rally for Connecticut's Libraries" and the annual Potluck Supper for legislators.

The rally will be held at 3:30 pm in front of the Legislative Office Building (LOB), across the street from the State Library. It has been years since a highly visible rally for our libraries has seemed necessary, but things are different this year. To have impact, the rally must attract at least 700 people to flood the area in front of the LOB. We need at least five people from every library in the state to show up.

The rally will precede the Potluck Supper for legislators at the State Library Museum, scheduled for 4:30-6:30 pm. If you can stay for this event, at least 30 legislators are guaranteed to see your support for Connecticut's libraries. You can also pledge a donation of a dish or cash to Chris Bradley at cbradley@ecl.org or Henry Dutcher at hdutcher@enfield.lib.ct.us.

We urge you to grab your colleagues, friends, family and anyone else who cares about library service in Connecticut and head to Hartford on April 2. Directions for parking at the LOB garage are at <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/cop/directions/directions.pdf>. If the garage is full, limited parking may be available along nearby streets.

CLA Resolution on the USA Patriot Act At its February 13 meeting, the CLA Executive Board unanimously endorsed a resolution on the USA Patriot Act. (See <http://cla.uconn.edu> for the full text.) Tony Bernardo, director of the Kent Library in Suffield, spearheaded the month-long effort to craft this document, assisted and advised by colleagues from CLA, the State Library, the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, and ALA.

Joining ALA and other state library associations across the country, which have adopted similar resolutions, CLA intends its resolution as a tool to assist individual Connecticut libraries develop their own resolutions or to help explain our professional concern over the provisions of the USA Patriot Act to our patrons.

The CLA Board believes that the USA Patriot Act, by allowing law enforcement officers easy access to patron records and library computers in the name of national security, represents an invasion of our constitutional rights to free speech and privacy. CLA supports the freedom to read without government interference and believes that certain sections of the Patriot Act are hostile to that freedom.

Contact me at kmcnulty@avon.lib.ct.us.

HIGHLIGHTS

President During the past month, Karen McNulty met with the Legislative Committee, participated in the creation of the CLA Resolution on the USA Patriot Act, attended the Impac Young Writer's Workshop, and was interviewed by Colin McEnroe (WTIC-AM) regarding the CSL budget. Other activities included a pay equity workshop for CLASS and a planning meeting for the library rally to be held on April 2.

Past President Mary Engels submitted a final slate of nominees for CLA offices to be presented at the annual conference. See page 6-9.

USA Patriot Act Resolution Tony Bernardo, chair of an ad hoc committee formed to draft a CLA resolution on the USA Patriot Act, presented the committee's version. The committee reviewed many other similar resolutions before drafting its resolution, which was submitted to ALA for review. Minor changes suggested by ALA were adopted. The board discussed the draft at length and made several changes before adopting the final resolution. (See the full text at <http://cla.uconn.edu>)

Connecticut Library Calendar Chris Bradley proposed the creation of a Connecticut library calendar using photos from the library display to be mounted at the LOB in early April. She was asked to bring a specific proposal to the board in March.

Region 4 Bernadette Baldino presented an update on Region 4 activities, including renovation/addition projects at the Fairfield Public Library, Pequot Library, Black Rock Branch of the Bridgeport Library, Monroe Public Library, and Wilton Library.

Procedures Vince Juliano presented a draft amendment to the CLA Bylaws dealing with the new position of Secretary-Treasurer Elect. See elsewhere on this page.

ACLB Suzanne Lee reported that over 190 libraries have paid their dues, the ACLB Digest has been mailed to all trustees, and library directors will be receiving forms for the ACLB scholarship and ACLB annual awards.

ALA Michael Golrick presented a report on the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The full report is available from the CLA office or from Michael. Of special note: 1) Formation of a new organization—*ALA-APA* (Allied Professional Association). According to the IRS, a 501c(6) organization must administer programs that certify individuals. 2) Council adopted a resolution on the USA Patriot Act, urging Congress to amend or change the Patriot Act and any activities that threaten or abridge the rights of inquiry and free expression. 3) The conference was kicked-off with a rally to "Save America's Libraries." 4) The list of candidates for ALA offices is available through the CLA office or from Michael.

CEMA Over 60 people attended the CEMA workshop, "Working with the Web: A day with Walter Minkle." CEU's were provided; CEMA is looking into CLEC's for the public librarians.

Children Susan Maryeski announced that *Because of Winn-Dixie* is the winner of the Nutmeg Book Award.

College and University Denise Hersey reported that the committee is planning a trip to the Mystic Seaport Preservation Facility during the annual conference. The first 40 people to sign up are eligible.

CSL Kendall Wiggin reported: 1) There is no resolution on the state budget and the Governor's budget address has been postponed. 2) CLSU money for the third quarter has been released. 3) Ken has been working with the Lt. Governor and is feeling optimistic about iConn. 4) CSL is closed on Thursday evenings due to budget cuts and the loss of staff. 5) He met with deans of New England library schools during ALA Midwinter to set up a series of meetings to discuss library school education. 6) C-Car progress is being made and resolution is hoped for within the month.

Economic Vitality The committee is sponsoring a silent auction fundraiser during the annual conference. Michelle Foyt is looking for donations: mfoyt@russell.lioninc.org.

Legislative The committee is working on the legislative agenda bookmark and updating legislative links. The rally for CT libraries has been scheduled for April 2.

Membership Membership stands at 989.

Conference Mary Ann Rupert reported that 55 exhibitors have registered to date.

Changes to CLA Bylaws

The following changes to CLA Bylaws propose the establishment of a new CLA office, Secretary-Treasurer Elect, as endorsed by the CLA Board at its October 2002 meeting. The purpose of the new position is to allow a one-year period of training before a person assumes the two-year term of Secretary-Treasurer. Changes to the Bylaws must be approved by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for 8:30 AM, Wednesday, April 9, during the Annual Conference in Groton. Proposed changes are in italics.

Article IV: Officers & Elected Representatives. Section 6: Secretary-Treasurer.

The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for the receipt and recording of all funds, pays bills that have been approved by the President, makes financial reports at meetings of the Executive Board and of the Association and acts as Secretary when there are statutory or other matters of legal procedure that require the action of an elected Secretary. *The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for training the Secretary-Treasurer-Elect.*

Section 6. A. Secretary-Treasurer-Elect. The Secretary-Treasurer-Elect serves as the assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer and may perform the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer in his/her absence.

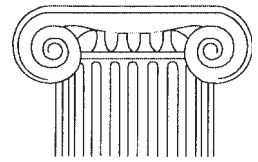
Article V: Executive Board. Section 1: Composition

The administration of the affairs of the Association is vested in an Executive Board. Voting members of the Executive Board are the President, the First and Second Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-Treasurer, *the Secretary-Treasurer-Elect*, the Immediate Past President, the Representative to the American Library Association, the Representative to the New England Library Association, the chairs and co-chairs of the sections and standing committees, and the Regional Representatives. No person who serves as a voting member of the Board in more than one position may be entitled to more than one vote.

Article VIII: Election of Officers. Section 2: Elections. Paragraph 2.

Election is to be determined by simple plurality. The Secretary-Treasurer will be elected for a *two-year term preceded by a one-year term as Secretary-Treasurer-Elect*. The Regional Representatives will be elected for a two-year term, three being elected each year. Association members may only vote for Regional Representatives nominated from the region the member checked on their Association membership application or renewal form. The Representative to the American Library Association will serve for three years; the Representative to New England Library Association for two years; except that the terms of either of these representatives may be modified by the bylaws of the respective Association and further, these Associations may set additional criteria for such representatives. Election will be held as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting, but before the end of the fiscal year. ■

HERITAGE



Rockville Public Library, recently reopened after extensive renovations to the adult department, will launch its yearlong centennial celebration in March. The library, which serves the town of Vernon, is located in an area once known as "Loom City" for its role in the development of the American woolen industry. Powered by the waters of the Hockanum River, Rockville's textile mills made Vernon a thriving industrial center from the early 19th century until the last mill closed in 1951.

Library service in Vernon, then known as North Bolton, dates to 1776, when a library was established to provide residents with books "suited to promote useful knowledge and piety in the community." A share cost 10 shillings, and each member was allowed to take out one book for a period of three months. To protect their investment, members had their treasurer and librarian bonded for 200 pounds each.

In 1811 the Vernon Union Library Company was formed with 80 subscribers. In 1843 the owners of the New England Mill formed the New England Company Library with the purchase of 300 books for use by employees. Twenty years later, townspeople started a public subscription library that added 500 books to the mill collection. Over the years the library was moved to various locations in the business district, and by 1896 there were 2000 books in the collection.

The history of library as it exists today began in 1893 with the bequest of \$10,000 from George Maxwell to the town of Vernon for a free public library. The money was given with the provision that the town raise an equal amount in five years. That same year the Rockville Public Library was incorporated by the state legislature and the Rockville Public Library Association was organized. By 1895 the matching sum was appropriated by the town, and the library opened on June 12, 1896 in the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company. Geraldine Keating was the first librarian, at a salary of \$500 per year.

Following Mr. Maxwell's death, his family honored his memory through a gift to the town of the present library building and its grounds, along with funds to maintain and operate the facility. The library remains privately funded from this gift and receives only about a fifth of its operating budget from the town.

A site was purchased on Union Street, ground was broken in 1903, and the first foundation stone was laid on March 13, 1903. Charles A. Platt of New York designed the building and F. L. Whitcomb of Boston served as contractor. The contract price was \$90,000, and the total cost for the lot, building and furnishings was approximately \$150,000. Dimensions of the original building were 86' x 42', with a rear ell of 30' by 52'.

The exterior of the building is white Vermont marble, with eight Ionic columns. A carving of a book surmounts the pediment at the entrance door. The vestibule is lined with Formosa marble. The interior features Sienna marble and stained oak. A frieze encircling the reading room contains the names of 26 great authors.

The library, originally known as the George Maxwell Memorial, was officially presented to the town in a ceremony

on June 29, 1904. Among those attending was Governor Abiram Chamberlain.

Originally located in what is now the reference room, the children's department was moved to the upper level in 1954 to provide more space for adult collections on the main floor. The building was renovated in 1967, and the junior library was relocated to a new wing of its own on the lower level, which also contains the meeting room named for long-time director Edith Peck (1912-59).

By the 1990s it was apparent that the adult department needed more space to accommodate its growing collection and technological resources. The possibility of adding onto the building was investigated, but the decision was to table expansion for the present. Instead, director Mary Ellen Beck advocated reallocating existing space. Ann Penfield of Higganum was hired as the project manager.

To maximize available space, some nonfiction books were shifted to the lower level in a space previously used for storage. A library board member brought in his Eagle Scout troop to move the books. To allow for relocation of the circulation desk, shelving was removed and given to the Watertown Public Library, along with some tables in the reference room.

Cleaning out a basement storeroom resulted in the discovery of treasures of historical value to the library, including a subscription book with records of library membership and transactions from 1811-48. The record has been copied and the original rebound in a volume that allows patrons to browse through it without damaging the fragile paper.

Renovations included repainting areas of the building, new carpeting in the adult and children's departments, new furnishings in the adult department (including comfortable chairs, display kiosks, face-out magazine shelving, and a display case), refurbishing oak tables original to the building, and a new security system, which has made it possible to add CDs and DVDs to the circulating collection. One kiosk contains a collection of books recommended by staff, which has proved very popular with patrons.

Furnishings have been rearranged so that one side of the reading room is a browsing area and the other contains computers and resources for research and study. Future plans call for the addition of two more computers with Internet access, along with DSL service to provide faster access.

The highlight of the renovation has been the restoration of an unobstructed view of the magnificent original marble circulation desk. In the process of construction, a beautiful oak desk was also discovered under the marble counter. This artifact from the past has been incorporated into the modern,

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Rockville Public Library, Vernon

by Denise J. Stankovics



Restored circulation desk, Rockville Public Library

Candidates For CLA Offices 2003/2004



*Christine Bradley,
Executive Director,
Eastern Connecticut
Libraries, Inc.*

Building public awareness and advocacy is our job as professional librarians, and this is what CLA is well positioned to support. We are a professional organization with a statewide base, a membership one thousand strong, a lean and mean administrative office, and a century of stories about Connecticut libraries.



*Jan Fisher, Library
Business Manager,
Bridgeport Public Library*

CLA must continue to work together with the Connecticut State Library and the CLSUs to make the public aware of what is at stake when library budgets are cut. As times become difficult for libraries, the more important it will be to promote cooperative efforts. By putting our ideas together and sharing our resources we will all benefit.

The CLA Executive Board is pleased to present the following librarians for association offices, 2003/2004. Please plan to meet them at the Annual Business Meeting during the Annual Conference on Wednesday, April 9, at 8:30, when an election will be conducted.

Each person has been asked to respond to the following statement: *In these rather dismal economic times what can CLA do to advance the cause of libraries and library staff so that we are able to continue to provide high quality library service?* ■

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

Christine Bradley, Executive Director, Eastern Connecticut Libraries, Inc.

Education BA Emmanuel College, MLS Simmons College, MALS Wesleyan University

Professional Activities

CLA Co-Chair, Publicity Committee, 2002/2003

We Must Tell Our Story

CLA can increase public awareness and advocacy in a Campaign for Connecticut's Libraries. As ALA president Maurice Freedman said in February's *American Libraries*, "We must tell the story of what we do and why it is so important."

We have the stories; we just have to tell them so people will listen. This is not just the purview of CLA's publicity and legislative committees. The stories must be told by every member of this organization, by members of our sister organizations of trustees and friends, and by our patrons. Every successful legislative effort has succeeded not just because our programs are worthy, but because we got the word out about libraries and we didn't let them take us for granted.

In any community there are many more worthy services than there are funds. This was never as clear as it was at this past December's Appropriations Hearing. CLA told the library story, and legislators listened, but not because it was the most compelling story being told. Libraries serve everyone in the community; there are no negatives associated with supporting libraries. And libraries are cost effective. As one legislator said to me, "I don't know anything about your program, so write up a summary of what you do and what you want, and I'll bring it up at the caucus." And because libraries serve everyone, once the story is told, it is echoed throughout the assembly. But we have to tell the story. We can't assume they know it, even if they've been to story hour.

I wrote an article in the October 15, 1990 *Library Journal*—"Notes from the Far Side: Town Council Budget Sessions Viewed by One Librarian." It was

my first year as a councilperson and my twentieth as a librarian, so I thought I had something to say about advocacy. It turns out I did. "Remind them that you serve all of their constituents, including seniors." "Brag about the seven-days/five-evenings-a-week service." "Tell them what you want the money for." "Be enthusiastic!" "Don't let them off the hook because money is tight." "Use the one percent bargain to your advantage."

Building public awareness and advocacy is our job as professional librarians, and this is what CLA is well positioned to support. We are a professional organization with a statewide base, a membership one thousand strong, a lean and mean administrative office, and a century of stories about Connecticut libraries. ALA has already committed to using public-awareness and advocacy resources in a campaign to save America's libraries. I suggest that CLA continue the work we began at last year's conference and commit to a Campaign for Connecticut's Libraries. Libraries and librarians are an important and integral part of the communities they serve, including the state, cities and towns, universities, schools, hospitals, and corporations. We just have to tell the story. ■

SECRETARY/TREASURER ELECT

Jan Fisher, Library Business Manager, Bridgeport Public Library

Education BA St. Joseph College, West Hartford, MLS Southern Connecticut State University

Professional Activities

CLA Member, Representative to Public Library Section; ALA Member

Cooperation Is the Key to Success

I feel that cooperation is key to the continued success of libraries in Connecticut. CLA must continue to work together with the Connecticut State Library and the CLSUs to make the public aware of what is at stake when library budgets are cut. As times become difficult for libraries, the more important it will be to promote cooperative efforts. By putting our ideas together and sharing our resources we will all benefit. CLA provides an opportunity for librarians and support staff to come together to meet the challenges of our times.

CLA should continue to inform and rally the membership regarding legislation and budgetary concerns on the state and national level. Connecticut librarians have worked long and hard to be able to provide excellent library service for all citizens of our state. As we are all aware, these services and resources are now in jeopardy. Libraries represent one of the greatest values for tax dollars. The public needs to see the library as the vital, important place that it is.

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With a well thought out publicity plan, CLA can help achieve this goal.

A variety of issues are facing libraries these days. We are being asked to do more with less. Less funding often means fewer materials and resources and fewer staff members for some libraries. CLA should take a strong role toward helping Connecticut libraries thrive. With difficult economic times upon us, CLA will need to work harder. Libraries will get through these economically challenging times and, with cooperation and the ongoing support of the state association, will on the whole emerge stronger than ever. CLA may be called upon to respond to new challenges that we cannot even know at this time. An informed, unified and vital membership will be prepared to deal with almost any issue. ■

ALA REPRESENTATIVE

Susan Herzog User Education Librarian, Eastern Connecticut State University

Education MSLIS Long Island University

Professional Activities

CLA Member 2002-. **ALA** Member 1996-, Management of Reference Committee, RUSA/**MOUSS** 2002-. **ACRL** Member 1998-. **ACRL New England** Member 2002-. **California Academic and Research Libraries** 1998-2002. **California Academic Librarians in Management** 2000-2002. **New England Library Instruction Group** 2002-, Online Services and Reference Committee, Gold Coast Library Network 2001-2002, Reference and User Services 1998-. **Southern California Instruction Librarians** 1998-2002. **SLA** Member 1996-1998. **SLA Long Island** Board of Directors 1997-1998.

Solidarity Is the First Step, Then Marketing

As a new state employee who's been here only five months, I am feeling the black cloud hanging over my head as deeply as anyone. What is imperative in such dismal times is solidarity. Now, more than ever, CLA must consolidate its support of public, academic, school, and special libraries, and we must join together to make the case for all of Connecticut's libraries.

Solidarity is just the first step; what's critical is marketing the wealth of services that libraries provide the people of Connecticut. Marketing doesn't come naturally to most librarians, but it's not an unobtainable skill set. CLA is currently working on bringing librarians up to speed; I counted four different programs on PR at the upcoming CLA Annual Conference.

We are not alone. ALA's Campaign for America's Libraries has provided us with a plethora of ready-to-use PR materials. In addition, ALA and SLA

continue to provide marketing workshops at the various conferences, so, if we can't reach every library here in Connecticut, we can certainly send librarians to the ALA, ACRL, SLA and AASL conferences. Some of the workshops are specifically designed as "Train-the-Trainer." For example, a preconference entitled "Strategic Marketing for Academic and Research Libraries: Train the Trainer" will be held on Thursday, April 10 during the ACRL National Conference in Charlotte.

"The full-day preconference is designed to help academic and research librarians train their colleagues in how to market their library. Participants will receive new training materials developed by 3M Library Systems in collaboration with ACRL. They include a Train-the-Trainer Facilitator Manual and accompanying slides to conduct workshops in their state. If you are an academic or research librarian interested in marketing and public relations, this preconference is for you! The preconference is part of a new Academic and Research Library Campaign sponsored by ACRL and ALA as part of @ your library, The Campaign for America's Libraries."

I would like to see CLA sponsor a variety of Train-the-Trainer workshops, preferably targeted to the different types of libraries, as marketing for a public library is completely different from marketing for an academic library (or school or special library). In these workshops, more librarians could start to acquire the requisite skills to promote our services through any and all means at our disposal.

Now is also the time to lean on our sponsoring associations and ask them to help us in our time of need. I was very happy when, right before the ALA Midwinter Meeting, ALA president Mitch Freedman solicited accounts from libraries facing funding crises and kicked off the meeting with a rally to "Save America's Libraries."

Although new to Connecticut and currently working in an academic library, I have worked in public and special libraries as well and have served on the SLA/Long Island Chapter Board of Directors. As ALA representative, I will do my best to advocate for all of Connecticut's libraries and to request support from ALA when needed. ■

NELA REPRESENTATIVE

Kristin M. Jacobi, Associate Librarian, Head of Cataloging, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University

Education BA University of Connecticut, MLS Southern Connecticut State University

Professional Activities

CLA Member 1982-. **NELA** Representative 2001-. College & University Libraries Section Executive

Continued on page 8



Susan Herzog, User Education Librarian, Eastern Connecticut State University

What is imperative in such dismal times is solidarity. Now, more than ever, CLA must consolidate its support of public, academic, school, and special libraries, and we must join together to make the case for all of Connecticut's libraries.



Kristin M. Jacobi, Associate Librarian, Head of Cataloging, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University

Our professional association needs not only to keep all of its members informed regarding library activities, but it also needs to supply reluctant librarians with the tools and skills to communicate our value and worth to the community at large, and i.e., the citizens of Connecticut.

Board 1996-, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect 1998-99, Chair 1999-2001, Past Chair 2001-03. Resources & Technical Services Section Executive Board 1984-1987, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect 1984-85, Chair 1985-86, Past Chair 1986-87. **NELA** Member 1996-. **NETSL** Executive Board 1996-98, Recording Secretary 1997-98. **ALA** Member 1992-. **ACRL** Member 1997-. **Church and Synagogue Library Association** Member 1996-. **Hale Donation Library**, First Congregational Church of Coventry, Librarian, 1992-. **Reviewer** for *Library Journal* "Audio Reviews" 1991-2002, for *MC Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship* 2000-2002, for *Educational Media Reviews Online* 2002-.

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

"The following are the universally fundamental laws of...communication: 1) One must have something to communicate; 2) One must have someone to whom to communicate it; 3) One must really communicate it, not merely express it for oneself alone. Otherwise it would be more to the point to remain silent."

Attributed to the German philosopher, Friedrich Von Schlegel (1772-1829).

In these dismal economic times, my thoughts hark back to the old saw: Communicate, communicate, communicate! Our professional association needs not only to keep all of its members informed regarding library activities, but it also needs to supply reluctant librarians with the tools and skills to communicate our value and worth to the community at large, i.e., the citizens of Connecticut.

We need to gather our strength and share our stories. We deliver a service that is widely used and widely regarded as essential to a democracy. Ours is an essential profession and institution. We need to communicate that everywhere we go, to every one we know. We need to be proud to say that we "work in a library." We need to all work together toward an informed, educated population.

Much of the time, we communicate with interesting, knowledgeable, and well thought out programming. Now we need to make the community understand that it is the library and the library worker that are essential for these activities. These are tough times in our state, and we must speak out to defend our library users and ourselves.

We have to stop "preaching to the choir" and start speaking louder and more often to "non-library" types. Let's be proactive and communicate! ■

REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Lou Wigley, Director, Norfolk Library
Education BA Oberlin College, MSLS Eastern Illinois University



Mary Lou Wigley,
 Director, Norfolk Library

CLA is sponsoring a mentor/protégé program to help those who are new to the profession gain knowledge and confidence. Many of us are nearing retirement and CLA is the appropriate organization to lead a program to encourage the brightest and most enthusiastic among young men and women to come into the field of librarianship.

Professional Activities

CLA Member 2001-. **Nevada Library Association** Member 1997-2000; Southern District Chair 1999, Library Planning Committee Chair 1999. **Mountain Plains Library Association** Member 1998-2000. **California Library Association** Member 1978-1997, Mentoring Committee Chair 1996, Continuing Education Committee member 1994-96. **Public Library Executives and Administrators of Southern California** Vice-President 1996. **South Pasadena Adult Reading Center** Advisory Board 1993-1997. **PLA** Member 1988-. **ALA** Member 1977-.

A Multi-Faceted Approach to Library Support

CLA has worked diligently this past year to encourage librarians to contact their legislators regarding library budget concerns. Facts and figures have been distributed to the library community via numerous e-mail messages. It might be helpful if the association could produce a well-designed, eye-catching, and simple-to-understand bookmark or small brochure that would provide necessary data and outline what's happening to libraries throughout the state due to funding inadequacies. Although this bookmark/brochure would be aimed at the public, it would be helpful for librarians to use when reaching out to those who influence decision-making.

Might it be possible for CLA to seek the financial assistance of vendors, foundations, and/or sympathetic media entities to mount a public awareness campaign to promote the value of libraries to the people of Connecticut?

The Annual Conference is where CLA does the most to reach library employees at all levels, whether they work in public, academic, school or special libraries. More interesting locations for the conferences (such as the one this year at Mystic) may encourage better attendance. Certainly, through the programs planned by CLA, attendees will gain greater expertise to help them provide higher quality library service back home. CLA is sponsoring a mentor/protégé program to help those who are new to the profession gain knowledge and confidence. Many of us are nearing retirement and CLA is the appropriate organization to lead a program to encourage the brightest and most enthusiastic among young men and women to come into the field of librarianship.

It would be helpful for regional representatives to have a better-defined reason for being. I'd like to see occasional meetings of just the regional reps—to talk about ways they could work more aggressively and uniformly within their geographic areas to encourage library staff to become more involved in the profession and with the Connecticut Library Association. Perhaps the reps could be invited to

Continued on page 9

talk to Friends groups or attend staff meetings to better explain the activities and value of CLA. ■

REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE

Tony Bernardo, Director, Kent Memorial Library, Suffield

Education BA Eastern Connecticut State University, MA, MLS Southern Connecticut State University

Professional Activities

CLA Diversity Task Force, USA PATRIOT Act Task Force. ALA IFRT Roundtable, USA PATRIOT Act Task Force. LAMA Member

Fighting Two Wars: The Economy & Intellectual Freedom

CLA must advance the cause of libraries and their staffs on both the economic and intellectual freedom fronts, the two arenas in which libraries currently find themselves being assailed. In my thinking, these two are inseparable. When times are bad, library use skyrockets, thereby fueling a greater need for information, which must be freely accessible without censorship or privacy violations.

On the economic front, it is important to remember, that while the picture does appear “dismal” now, this is part of the economic cycle; and it will pass. Meanwhile, CLA should embark on a vigorous public awareness campaign that can be carried out in many different forms, in order to bring attention to:

- The value and worth of librarians and support staff on a per capita cost basis
- The immense value of the services and materials provided on a per capita cost basis to reinforce the necessity of library funding to ensure the fiscal health of towns and cities
- Educate the public on the local impacts of funding cuts

This campaign obviously must be made at the level of the general public and the legislature. But I think more effort can be made to get the message out to town and smaller municipal finance and governmental agencies, who make the decisions at budget times on the local level.

The challenges to intellectual freedom are becoming much more daunting as well. CIPA is not over by a long shot. The dangers of legislation like the USA PATRIOT Act, and the data-mining of TIA (Total Information Awareness), should be made loudly known throughout library land. Once again, CLA must take the lead in informing the public, the legislature, and local law enforcement agencies, by any means available, on the threats to civil liberties protected under the First and Fourth Amendments, that this over-zealous legislation poses. And CLA

must be ready to support those libraries that challenge this legislation. ■

REGION 4 REPRESENTATIVE

Bernadette Baldino, Director, Easton Public Library
Education BA Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, MLS Southern Connecticut State University

Professional Activities

CLA Personnel Committee Chair 1974-1975, Region Four Representative 1999-2003, Conference Co-Chair 2001. Bridgeport Public Library Staff Association Member 1967-1995, President 1978-1981. State Library Film Advisory Board Member 1982-1985.

No statement available. ■

WHAT'S IN A WORD

Continued from page 2

ruin a literary event. How, then, were the president and first lady going to honor Whitman, who complained that the presidency and other offices were “bought, sold...prostituted and filled with prostitutes.”

“This indicates something very deep about the White House,” Nelson told me. “It says something about their response to dissent.” Nelson had a silk scarf with peace signs made for the event. She hoped it might show up in some photo ops. Now, Nelson said, “I’ll wear it everywhere.” Instead of going to the White House on Wednesday, Nelson made plans to attend a “Poets for Peace” event at West Avenue Community Center in Willimantic, to read a new anti-war poem, “Wreath for Emmett Till.”

Nationally, many poets are planning “guerilla poetry readings” in the streets wherever the president appears. Poet Sam Hamill, editor of Copper Canyon Press in Port Townsend, Washington, declared February 12 a day of Poetry Against the War. He intends to publish about 3000 anti-war poems on the site www.poetsagainsthewar.org.

“The problem with this imminent war,” said poet Georgia Popoff of Syracuse, New York, “is that the obvious profile of the majority who are opposed is being swept under the carpet by pollsters who can sway the image in any direction.”

Thank you, America, as Langston Hughes put it, for “the land that has never been yet.” ■

Reprinted with permission from The Connecticut Law Tribune, February 13, 2003. Andy Thibault, a CLA member, is the author of Law & Justice In Everyday Life. Upcoming signings include: March 11, Atticus Bookstore Cafe, New Haven; March 20, Barnes & Noble, Enfield; March 26, Borders, Simsbury; April 24, Barnes & Noble, North Haven. Thibault can be reached at ntcommllc@compuserve.com; website, andythibault.com



Tony Bernardo, Director, Kent Memorial Library, Suffield

The challenges to intellectual freedom are becoming much more daunting as well. CIPA is not over by a long shot. The dangers of legislation like the USA PATRIOT Act, and the data-mining of TIA (Total Information Awareness), should be made loudly known throughout library land.

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A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN ALEXANDER'S COURT

Continued from page 1

offices, a periodical room, a 25-station bibliographic instruction lab, a faculty development center, and a writing center staffed by the English department. Additional offices for faculty, library, and systems administration staff; classrooms; labs for computers, multimedia, and Cisco training; and a videoconference center fill the basement level. All in all, Bissell is reputed to be the most technologically sophisticated library in southeastern Europe.

Starting any new job is stressful. Starting a new job in a country where one doesn't speak the language is more so. All ACT faculty and staff are fluent in English, the language of instruction, but dealing with offices and vendors outside the college or going about the daily business of living is a constant reminder that not everyone in Greece understands my language, nor I theirs. Shaking down a new library building is always headache-inducing, as is migration to a new automated system. Hiring and training staff takes time even when one is familiar with how to recruit, but I had no idea how to do that in an unfamiliar labor market.

Between February and September of 2002, I had to hire three new staff members and assist in hiring a director for the high school library; plan and implement the transfer of materials from one library, where college and high school collections were interfiled, to a new one; implement a new ILS to be shared among three libraries in a fledgling consortium, two of which had never been automated and where circulation was handled manually in all three; begin a retrospective conversion project for current holdings (system migration is not possible and you just don't want to know about that); draft access policies; finalize equipment purchases and oversee installation; prepare a budget proposal for FY 2002/03; select materials for the fall 2002 semester in which the MBA program would welcome its first class; assist in planning the library's official dedication during the trustees' annual meeting; and prepare for the institution's New England Association of Schools and Colleges re-accreditation visit (ACT was chartered in Boston, believe it or not) scheduled for early October.

In some ways, working for an American college in Greece is similar to working for a college in the US. I often buy books from Baker & Taylor and supplies from Gaylord or Brodart. We subscribe to many of the same databases American libraries use—several from EBSCO in addition to JSTOR, Hoover's, ProjectMuse, and others. I employ many of the same

selection tools, such as *Choice* and *Library Journal*. Our new ILS is a Horizon system from Dynix.

On the other hand, my accounts are kept in Euros, and many of the meetings I attend and reports and correspondence I read are in Greek. My acquisition of the language proceeds slowly. People typically speak to me in Greek, and I have to respond in English. With lots of luck, this won't always be the case. Then, there are things like the aforementioned snakes. They really did slither out of our new copiers once they were installed and warmed up. Who knows how and when the reptiles took up residence there?

I love being in Thessaloniki, a vibrant city of over one million inhabitants with a thriving cultural scene. It is less than an hour away from fabulous beaches, and once you get used to swimming in the Aegean you don't want to know about the Atlantic. Not being brave enough to drive in Greece, I don't own a car but can get around easily using public transportation, the amazingly inexpensive taxis, or by begging rides from friends. Among local archaeological sites is the birthplace of Alexander the Great. Plus, my job came with a spacious on-campus apartment, which includes a balcony from which I have a view of the city and its harbor and, on clear days, Mt. Olympus! The food is excellent, and Greek wines must be the country's best-kept secret. Believe me, it isn't all retsina!

The Bissell Library was formally dedicated before a crowd of several hundred invited guests on October 27, 2002, a spectacularly clear, warm and sunny day. Among the honored speakers were the American Ambassador, Greece's Minister of Culture, and Mr. Bissell himself. As I introduced each of them, sometimes speaking in Greek, however poorly, it occurred to me that ALA had gotten it exactly right a few years ago when it adopted the slogan "Libraries Change Lives." ■

Karen Bohrer is the former director of Litchfield's Oliver Wolcott Library and was active in CLA while a resident of Connecticut. Visit ACT's website at www.act.edu. You can reach Karen at kbohrer@ac.anatolia.edu.

ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, VERNON

Continued from page 5

functional circulation area. Another local treasure featured in the renovation is a painting of downtown Rockville in its heyday as a manufacturing center by Alfred F. Ludwig, grandfather of library office manager Carol Oliwa. Given to the library some time ago, it now hangs in a public area where patrons can enjoy it.

By renovating creatively, the library is meeting the challenge of providing 21st-century service while preserving the beauty and integrity of its historic building.

Reference librarian Denise J. Stankovics is responsible for adult programming and public relations for the Rockville PL.

TECHNOLOGY



How many webmasters have to take documents created by members of the library staff and massage that material for inclusion on a web page? Wouldn't it be nice if the authors of the original content could produce the appropriate html? Perhaps that is expecting too much, but Swiki may offer a potential solution.

Swiki stands for Squeak + Wiki and the best thing about it is that one does not need to know html in order to create web pages. You can read more about Squeak and Swiki at <http://minnow.cc.gatech.edu/swiki> if you wish to explore the technology of setting up your own server.

A Wiki is defined at <http://www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?WhatsaWiki> as "a collaboratively edited website which many people also view as an anarchistic publishing tool. The distinguishing feature of wikis is that they typically allow all users to edit any page, with full freedom to edit/change/delete the work of previous authors." Many people wonder how this can work. One reason is that abuses can be easily fixed by the next visitor. See WikiErase.

Many wiki pages began as sites that allowed technical discussions to exist and to provide support for techies. They have expanded into many different fields now. See <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?PublicWikiForums> for a list of many of them. You can register and create a swiki of your own or edit one that already exists at <http://www.swiki.net>.

David Mattison is writing an article for *Searcher* magazine about wikis; see <http://www.infotoday.com/searcher>. He has set up the *Searcher's* swiki at <http://searchers.swiki.net> and left it open to anyone who wishes to play around there. Go to his site and wander around, but you'll need to register with swiki.net in order to do any editing.

I registered there and then created my own swiki. You can get to my site by going to <http://library.swiki.net>. Just imagine that this is your library's web site. Information about your library's programs and events changes each month. Members of the staff send you the information in some electronic format and you, as webmaster, have to reformat their information into html and put it onto the web site.

Using swiki, all of that hassle is ended. Swiki has the ability to allow only invited users to update pages. Pages that you

want no one to touch can be locked. Only the site administrator and the person who locked the page can unlock that page. If you create a page for each staff person who is responsible for updating information, have them edit that page and then lock it, your web pages should remain untouched.

The text editing capabilities are simple. Just type in the text that you want to use. To create a new line, use the enter key. To make a header line, place an = sign at the beginning of the line. Horizontal lines, lists, tables, and more are available. If you want something that depends on html formatting, just use common html tags such as the <center> and </center> ones.

Files and images can also be displayed on the page by using the upload button available on the swiki page and telling it to upload the file or image to the web site. To create a link to an image, just type "+imagenam.jpg+" and it will appear. Linking to a document such as a pdf file is done in the same manner.

Once you have designed your page, click on the lock and no one can change it. As administrator of the site, you can issue invitations to users and define the privileges they have. Even users who have edit privileges cannot touch a page that has been locked by someone else. If an error is made, it is easy to roll back to a previous edition of the page by using the history button.

Want to play? I created a sample library page at <http://library.swiki.net>. To edit anything on this page, register with swiki.net and create a user id for yourself. Then go to the site and explore and edit my Play page. Click on the question mark in the upper right corner of the page to learn how to navigate and edit. The Play page is unlocked so that anyone can edit it. I will be notified by email if the page is modified and, if I don't like the changes that were made, I can use the history button and roll back to the previous version.

Swiki seems to be a very useful tool to set up a web page that could be easy to update and maintain. Is it the wave of the future? Spend some time playing on <http://library.swiki.net> and see what you think.

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

Wiki, Swiki, and Squeak



*Isabel Danforth
Technology Columnist*

Winners!

The following libraries have been selected to receive the 2003 Excellence In Public Service Awards:

- Specific Program (large library): Enfield Public Library, Summer Reading is Groovy
- Specific Program (small library): Simsbury Public Library, Business Reference Service
- Overall Service (small library): Woodbridge Library
- Overall Service (large library): No award this year

Read the April edition of *CL* to learn more about the winning programs.



Mentoring Program Opportunities

by *Kathleen M. Lescoe*

The CLA Mentoring Committee is offering two programs guaranteed to recharge batteries and foster professional growth. Both the Mentoring Program and a May 16 Interviewing/Resume program are designed for career enrichment, offering opportunities to share knowledge and expertise resulting in a revitalized interest in work and increased professional satisfaction.

The CLA Mentoring Program brings two individuals together in a mentor/protégé relationship. A seasoned professional mentor is a role model assisting a protégé by teaching, sharing information, networking, and offering specialized expertise. The protégé is introduced to the world of librarianship and its specialties, receives assistance in advancing a career, explores a variety of jobs, and gains problem solving skills, and enhanced vision.

To participate, fill out a profile form available at <http://cla.uconn.edu> and send it to the CLA office before April 15. Mentors and protégés will be paired by April 22, and a get-acquainted orientation for participants will take place at the Middletown Library Service Center on April 29. Speakers will include former mentors or protégés. After the orientation, mentors and protégés should plan on substantial contact, preferably in person, once a month. During the one-year relationship, the Mentoring Committee will offer workshops designed to enhance the mentor/protégé connection.

Mentors, protégés, and CLA members are invited to an interviewing/resume program on May 16, from 9–12 at the Middletown Library Service Center. Speakers include Lucy Gangone, associate librarian at Hartford PL; Barbara Meagher, CCSU, chair of the Reference & Adult Services Section; and associate professor Arlene Bielefeld, SCSU. Each will speak about their experience with the hiring process and offer recommendations for success. Registration for the May 16 program may be completed through <http://cla.uconn.edu>.

Get into the spirit of spring while revitalizing your profession life. Get involved in the CLA Mentoring Program! ■

Kathleen M. Lescoe, Branch Librarian-Barney Library, Farmington

Rally for CT Libraries

The “Rally for Connecticut’s Libraries” is scheduled for April 2 at 3:30 pm in front of the Legislative Office Building (LOB), just across the street from the State Library on Capitol Avenue. It will precede the annual Potluck Supper for legislators at the State Library Museum, scheduled for 4:30-6:30. Plan to stay for the Potluck Supper, where at least 30 legislators will see your support for Connecticut’s libraries.

Many Connecticut authors, celebrities, and sports figures will be invited to attend. If you have a connection and can provide a mailing address, please send it to Karen McNulty at kmcnulty@avon.lib.ct.us. Ask your friends and family to attend on behalf of CLA. We need at least five people from every library in the state to show up.

See <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/cop/directions/directions.pdf> for directions to the LOB parking garage. If the LOB is full, limited parking may be available along nearby streets.

We appreciate your support! ■

It’s time for CLA’s annual *Potluck Supper!*

**April 2, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm • Connecticut State Library
Raymond E. Baldwin Museum of Connecticut History**

Don’t miss this special dinner for Connecticut’s legislators, sponsored by CLA, the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, & the Association of Connecticut Library Boards. CLA provides meat platters and hot pasta dishes; we ask you to supply hors d’oeuvres, side dishes, or salads. If you can’t cook, please make a donation (\$10) payable to CLA. We also need volunteers who are willing to “work” the event. **RSVP by March 13 to let us know what you are bringing.**

Contact: Henry Dutcher, 860-763-7550 or hdutcher@enfield.lib.ct.us; or Chris Bradley, 860-465-5001 or cbradley@ecl.org. ■



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