

# CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of  
the Connecticut  
Library  
Association

## TREASURES

### *Bridgeport's Circus Collecton*

It will come as no surprise to residents of Connecticut that Bridgeport Public Library has a collection of circus documents and ephemera. Indeed, the city is as well known for its connection to the circus as it is for its central role in American industrial history, thanks to the influence of its favorite son, P.T. Barnum (b. 1810, Bethel; d. 1891, Bridgeport).



*Earl Roy*

The Circus Collection, one of the library's Historical Collections, serves as a window on local, national, and international history considered from a unique perspective, but a perspective that nonetheless touches on a remarkable variety of disciplines. Obviously, those interested in marketing, publicity, and the media can find much useful material here, but the collection also provides insight on issues of social anthropology, period architecture, equestrian studies, the early use of automobiles (in circus tricks and as a means of transport), animal training and care, marginalized populations, women's studies, railroads, and so on. The Circus Collection survives and actively acquires materials thanks in part to donations and endowed funds.

Objects from circus history are more the domain of the nearby Barnum Museum, with which the Circus Collection has a close association. Comprising roughly thirty linear feet, the collection is primarily documentary in scope, and includes letters, broadsides, leaflets, diaries, and approximately 200 colorful circus posters. Of particular note is its set of circus route books, each of which presents the acts, statistics, schedules, and personnel of a circus tour, complete with maps and descriptions of the locations at which the show would be performed. The Circus Collection's route books, representing the period 1875-1891, constitute one of the finest and most comprehensive archives of its kind in the country.



*Circus poster of Dainty Miss Leitzel*

est and most comprehensive archives of its kind in the country.

Although the general history of the circus is represented here, there is of course an emphasis on the career of Barnum, whose own donations of money and books helped begin the collection. Though a showman from the age of twenty-five, Barnum began his circus career relatively late in life, in 1871, accounting for the portion of the collection not strictly associated with the circus. A twelve-drawer map case contains an array of interesting documents and photographs grouped by subject. In it can be found the diary of Barnum's daughter, Caroline Barnum Thompson, covering the period from December 4, 1850 to April 20, 1851, chronicling her adventures during one of her father's earlier triumphs, the American tour of the "Swedish nightingale" Jenny Lind, as well as materials relating to Charles Stratton, better known as General Tom Thumb—both stars of Barnum's pre-circus career.

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<http://cla.uconn.edu>

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# OBVERSION Libraries: Just Really About Education and Information

A few years ago *American Libraries* published an article by yours truly entitled *Telescopic Philanthropy*. That phrase, a chapter heading in Charles Dickens's *Bleak House*, made sarcastic reference to a character in the book who spent all of her time and energies working on African social service projects while her London home was in shambles and her children malnourished and poorly clothed.

My *American Libraries* article likened the American Library Association's Council of those times to that telescopic *Bleak House* character for its incessant prattle about things like wars in Bosnia while the needs of America's libraries, and their users, were frequently of only secondary interest to its august deliberations.

The editor assigned to my piece, apparently sensing some potentially juicy controversy, gave the unpublished article to three other librarians who were allowed to pen a vigorous counterpoint for the same issue. The counterpoint, a surprise to me and not something regularly seen in *American Libraries*, argued that had I taken a too narrow a view of librarianship and accused me of suggesting that political action was a bad thing and shouldn't be part of our profession.



William Uricchio

The writers missed my point which was this: political action aimed at bettering our libraries is not only right, it is necessary when we are pushing access, service, resource, balance or other true library issues. CLA's Legislative Committee has done this extremely well for years and my hat is off to them. But, some political action can be not only off target but also injurious to our cause by identifying us with one polemical group or another and thus alienating the advocates of the other viewpoint.

Librarians should be free to speak their minds as long as their personal political viewpoints don't spill over into the creation of a public perception that our libraries lean one way or another in the political "wars" that engulf us. To do so could separate libraries from necessary funding and other support when the devotees of an opposing viewpoint rise to take charge of the public coffers and related governmental machinery.

I am concerned in particular when:

- The president of CLA writes a strong polemic in our professional journal that calls for us to vote for Senator Kerry because "it is just in our best interest"

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## BOOKS LOOKING AT

### Free Culture: How Big Media Uses Technology and the Law to Lock Down Culture and Control Creativity

by Lawrence Lessig (Penguin Press, 2004)

Ever wonder why brand-new cars don't come with MP3-CD players? Ever wonder why Internet radio, unfettered by geography, hasn't proliferated?

Lawrence Lessig's new book provides answers to these and other creativity questions, but most of the answers are not ones librarians will want to hear. For Lessig, new technology, new copyright laws, and a new, consolidated media combine to stifle our culture's capacity for creativity and innovation. Instead of a "free culture" where society limits some intellectual property rights in order to encourage creativity, we are heading towards a "feudal culture" where content providers and the government use a property fundamentalism to protect the pecuniary interests of a few major content providers.

Rejecting charges of liberal bias, Lessig reminds us that property fundamentalism is not a part of our history or our Constitution. From the beginning, the U.S. government recognized that creative property is a different form of property. Copyright law should be used to protect the rights of creators without stifling the environment of creativity that is a hallmark of a democratic society. For that reason, the maximum term of copyright was never more than 56 years. Thanks to recent copyright term extensions, however, the current average term of copyright is an incredible 95 years.

You may remember Lessig as the attorney who argued before the Supreme Court that these recent copyright term extensions were unconstitutional. ALA and a broad coalition of organizations, left and right, supported his case. Lessig lost, and his explanation why provides a fascinating, and troubling, look at how the Supreme Court decides its cases.

Besides copyright extension, Lessig worries that recent responses to new technology differ from our past practices. When technology changes, it is not the responsibility of the government or its copyright law to protect one way of doing business over another. The broadcast industry survived the advent of the VCR, for example, despite copyright worries regarding this new technology.

But one new technology has produced a far more frenzied response from the content providers and their supporters in Congress. The proliferation of digital content on the Internet brought us the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998. Because of the ease of copying digital material, content providers convinced Congress that copyright law no longer should remain technology-neutral. By using new digital rights management technologies in new products like e-books, publishers can control the copying of any part of a digital work. This helps protect copyright, but it also makes it more difficult for readers to execute their rights under fair use and first sale doctrines. This essentially replaces the copyright law with a copyright code, a code Congress chose to protect with the DMCA.

The DMCA makes it illegal to create or use a device that circumvents the code on access to digital works, even if the device is created for legal uses. Recent court cases have limited the scope of this copyright law. Nevertheless, with the help of the DMCA, content providers have shown how serious they are about using technology to pursue anyone using copying devices on digital material. The music industry, for example, has sued thousands of Americans for alleged copyright infringement because they copied music over the Internet.

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Tom Newman  
Guest Reviewer

## OBVERSION

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to do so and bases this recommendation in part on our apparent commonly held beliefs in the sanctity of "a woman's right to choose...[support for] gay marriage...[and our opposition to] vouchers for children 'left behind.'" I know plenty of professional colleagues who don't agree with any of the above and who supported President Bush in the recent election. And what exactly is the direct librarianship connection to those issues anyway?

- A prominent Connecticut public library schedules an open showing of Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* for the night before the presidential election and the screening is defended by the library's director who tells a newspaper that "it seemed to make sense because people's opinions [would] have been made up by then and it wouldn't really matter."

I am pleased to report that press interest in the *Fahrenheit 9/11* story seems to have evaporated quickly and the story has a mostly happy ending. This was probably in part because the library moved swiftly to drop the event and the library director, rightly noting that "the library's job is to present both sides of an issue," graciously apologized for having made a "mistake." But this same library had also apparently worked hard to build a successful reputation as being a place that did not favor one political issue/side over another and this reputation reaped support when it was most needed. One can imagine the disappointed reaction of a reporter nosing around for some excitement and instead receiving the following from the town's Democratic committee chairwoman: "I've always known them to be neutral and just really about education and information." And not, as Edmund Burke wrote, "the cold neutrality of an impartial judge,"\*\* but much more the warm neutrality of an informed profession seeking to enlighten and not persuade its clientele.

\*Owens, David. "Library Reschedules Showing of 'Fahrenheit'". Hartford *Courant*, Northwest Connecticut/ Sports Final Edition, October 29, 2004, p. B. 1

\*\*From his preface to J. P. Brissot's address "... on the situation of the National Convention," 1794.

*William Uricchio is Director, Tri-Campus Libraries, UConn.*

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*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  
Friday of the month.*



*Chris Bradley*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Each One Besech One: A New Year's Resolution for Librarians

**I've got mine. My 25-year-old daughter Kate is enrolling in the library science program at Simmons this month. I'm replacing myself. How about the rest of you boomers?**

Look behind you. There's nobody there. And there won't be unless you resolve now to bring someone along. I know, no one did it for us, but there were a lot more of us. There was also a draft, disaffection with the establishment that might provide other employment, and both reading and public service were considered cool.

Getting Kate wasn't easy, even though she is a liberal arts graduate who reads books, uses neighborhood libraries, and lives in Boston, land of a thousand library positions. I thought we had her last summer, but somewhere between the \$750/hour tuition, a dreary library temp job, and the old guy who was stalking her at BPL, she started talking about publishing, and decided to defer her acceptance. Now it is January, and Kate has asked her grandmother and various banks for tuition money; she's a permanent library assistant in a law firm library, and she is psyched about starting at Simmons.

What happened? It wasn't the money. Tuition is still high, and salaries are still low. It wasn't the job market. Baby boomers are still occupying the jobs that we are supposed to be retiring from to create the shortage. It wasn't even Noah Wylie and his quest for the spear, which Kate recommended to me, because "you like things like that." It wasn't even her mother who turned it around, but her boss, Betsy the librarian, her library colleagues, and her library customers.

When Kate went to Washington DC for a weekend this fall, Betsy encouraged her to stop in at the firm's DC office library, which just happened to be staffed by four young men. Then she brought Kate to a law librarians' luncheon where she seated Kate with the young ones, many of whom were going to Simmons and were full of both advice and enthusiasm. The finale was the email from one of Kate's library customers, a young lawyer who invited her and her roommates to a party. The deal was sealed at the firm's holiday party to which Kate brought her big sister to meet her friends from work. She's having fun. Remember that?

In her NextGen column in the November 15 *Library Journal*, Rachel Gordon says that many young librarians feel that the profession isn't welcoming. We can do this. We can welcome young people to our world. We can support CLA's minimum salary requirement, so that their median earnings will get unstuck from the Forties. We can be flexible with work and vacation schedules. We can mind the store once in a while to let young workers attend professional social functions. We can give young people work assignments out front, where the action is, where they can meet people they like. When new employees sign on, we can share with them why we do what we do, what our goals are for the library, and not just the details of their benefit package.

Look at your staff fiction picks. Are they all Oprah books? We need young librarians for more than just their handiness with a computer. We need them for how they think, for what they care about, and to know how they see the world. If only old people work in libraries, pretty soon only old people will go to libraries.

Private schools regularly cooperate to support social and educational programs for young teachers from different schools. They do this in part because they desperately need to retain young teachers to coach three seasons of required sports. Libraries, who serve customers of all ages, should be just as desperate to welcome young library workers. We might support a similar program, or we could at least be aware of the possibilities that life can offer to people in their twenties or thirties.

To welcome someone is more than just giving him a position and a paycheck, even an adequate one. To welcome someone is to invite her to stay awhile, so she can get to like it just as much as you do, so that thirty years from now, she'll be here to welcome a new generation. Remember, this is not big group, so make a resolution to extend a welcome to these young people one at a time. I've got mine, thanks to Betsy, now go get yours.

*Contact Chris at [cbradley@clibrarians.libct.org](mailto:cbradley@clibrarians.libct.org).*

# HIGHLIGHTS

**Conference Fees** Henry Dutcher moved that the 2005 Annual Conference registration fees be increased by \$5 per day to cover the cost of parking at one of several New Haven garages. Motion approved. Fees will be \$55/day for members and \$75 for non-members. Two-day registration will be \$80 and \$110.

**Minimum Salary Guidelines** The Personnel Committee moved that CLA adopt a 3% increase for the CLA minimum salary guideline for FY06, effective July 1, 2005. Motion approved. The recommended hourly rate will be \$23.29. The recommended beginning salary for those with an MLS will be \$42,388 for a 35 hour week and \$48,443 for a 40 hour week. Pam Peril suggested that there be a guideline in effect for LTAs. The CLASS section will bring a recommended salary proposal to the board for addition to the FY06 guidelines.

**President** Chris Bradley received a letter from ALA requesting that each chapter make two book selections—one for children, another for adults—for “Many Voices, One Nation @ Your Library.” Hali Keeler and the Children’s Section will respond on behalf of CLA. An ALCPD committee is revising the Public Library Statutes, and Chris has appointed three CLA representatives to the committee: Mike Moran, Theresa Conley and Laura Goodgion. The State Library’s Continuing Education Committee has asked for a CLA representative to the committee; Alberta Richetelle has volunteered.

**Treasurer** Jan Fisher reported a balance of \$35,010 in the checking account balance and \$104,660 in the investment account as of November 30.

**Business and Economic Development** The conference program will deal with job searches and small business consulting.

**Conference** Henry Dutcher recommended signing up early for the author luncheon since space will be limited. The preconference tour of the Yale libraries will include a luncheon in the president’s dining room. Orson Scott Card will be the keynote speaker in a program beginning at 4:45 pm on Wednesday; this program will also include the awards ceremony. The Mayor of New Haven and the ALA President will attend the conference’s opening ceremony. Mary Ann Rupert reported that site selection committee for the 2006 conference has picked the Mountainside in Wallingford. The 2006 conference will likely be held in May. The registration fee at Mountainside will include lunch for everyone.

**Development** Mary Etter reported that the committee is working on the plans formulated last year, particularly the portion regarding paid employees. Michael Dowling from ALA Chapter Relations has offered his assistance.

**Legislative** The Legislative Agenda is now on the CLA website. CLA members have suggested additional changes regarding the wording of the confidentiality statute and the committee will address these. The annual potluck supper will be held on April 6.

**NELA** The next annual NELA conference will be held in Worcester, MA on October 16-18, 2005. NELA is soliciting CT librarians for attendance at the second NE Library Leadership Symposium. A brochure is available from the CLA office or from Kristin Jacobi at ECSU. There are a number of chair positions available at NELA for interested librarians.

**Publicity** The annual library photo exhibit will be held once more in the Legislative Office Building. Submitted photos should include one interior and one exterior picture of your library.

**Reference and Adult** One hundred and ten people attended the section’s fall program.

**ADA** Alberta Richetelle noted that the State Library has purchased four lip-sync systems, which will allow the hearing impaired to tune into talks. These are available from the MLSC.

**State Library** Sharon Brettschneider reported that the C-card Cost Study Hearing would be held December 13 in the Legislative Office Building. “CT Libraries: It’s Never Too Early,” a program featuring the importance of libraries in early literacy will be publicized through bookmarks, brochures and workshops. Long-range planning grants have been awarded to the libraries in Enfield, Columbia, Brooklyn, Scoville, and New Britain. Construction grants have been awarded to the libraries in Simsbury, Essex, Guilford, New London, Wallingford, Willington, Sherman, Westbrook, Greenwich (Branch), Hamden and Salisbury.

*CLA President Chris Bradley presents Senator Donald DeFronzo, a CLA Library Champion, with a certificate of appreciation.*



## LOOKING AT BOOKS

*Continued from page 2*

Lessig believes the first casualty of this wholesale war on piracy will be our culture’s capacity for creativity and innovation.

Lessig gives examples of this dilemma. We don’t have MP3-CD players in cars because even the automobile companies are afraid of potential litigation from the music industry should these devices appear to encourage illegal copying. We don’t have a proliferation of Internet radio stations because Congress has slapped prohibitive rules and fees on these stations in order to protect the current broadcast industry. And, surely there is a way to compensate artists and musicians fairly, without labeling as criminals the 43 million members of our population who share music. Lessig thinks there are ways to address these problems. Our interest should not be in shielding industries from the competition brought on by new technology. Our interest should be in creating a system fair to creators and users alike.

Perhaps Lessig’s best argument for revamping copyright law is his call to expand content in the public domain. Currently, there is a host of copyright-protected material that no one is trying to protect and which no one essentially may use. Many copyright holders would willingly allow free use of their material, but because there is no copyright registration process, users often find it too difficult to identify and locate the owners in order to ask for permission. For instance, there is a vast quantity of important film material that could be digitized, but the gargantuan task of obtaining copyright permission makes this impossible.

Lessig advocates mandatory copyright renewal after 50 years as an effective compromise solution to this problem. Anything not renewed for copyright at this time, with a small fee paid, would automatically enter the public domain (See [eldred.cc/ea\\_faq.html](http://eldred.cc/ea_faq.html)). He also encourages the use of voluntary legal vehicles, such as the Creative Commons, which offers a range of flexible protections and freedoms for authors and artists (see [creativecommons.org](http://creativecommons.org)).

Lessig’s ideas resonate with librarians, who see the potential of the Internet and who are concerned that the government has forsaken its responsibility to encourage access to information as it encourages the use of new technology. At the very least, librarians should be impressed when attorney Lessig warns that a society concentrating its attention on property protection will only create a world of more lawyers and fewer librarians.

*Tom Newman is the Assistant Director of the Connecticut State Library’s Middletown Library Service Center.*

# Playing Around at Russell Library

## A Summer Reading Program Idea

by Laura Larsen

In January and February, children's librarians across Connecticut are making plans for their summer reading programs. Deep in the middle of the winter of 2004 we at Russell Library began planning for our "Bulldoze into Books" summer reading program. We very quickly came up with board games, prizes, raffles and the like. But we were momentarily stumped when it came to ideas for a kickoff program.

The usual options when planning a kickoff event include an entertainer, a fair with face painting and booths, and story times of course. Budgetary constraints made hiring an entertainer a last choice, and a fair was last year's big event. Many story time activities were already planned for the summer.

At the end of the summer, we planned to visit Middletown Public Works, where kids can pet the trucks, climb on some, and see a demonstration of others. So we wanted something that followed a construction theme. But, how could we achieve a big bang for only a few bucks?

We are fortunate to own buckets and buckets of blocks, lots of small cars and trucks, small street signs, and even some mats with towns printed on them. These items fit our theme perfectly. How could we put these to use for a big event? We decided to play.

No one today can miss the fact that kids are on tight schedules, even in the summer. Most kids have swimming lessons, camp, or other lessons that take up summer hours. Even library story hours need to have a structure to work well, especially for the preschool crowd. Our challenge was to put together a structured/unstructured event with play as its focus.

Children learn social, creative, cognitive and

manipulative skills from playing. They learn about themselves and the world around them. Their physical development comes through play. Best of all, play is *fun!*

Today, many influences, from computers to over scheduling of activities, have limited this important time in many children's lives. Children's departments generally have a play space with blocks, puzzles and playhouses. Many librarians include a playtime after story hour programs. We love to play! Armed with a few ideas, we began our planning.

We wanted to include different types of play in our event to encourage all children, from the boldest, most social children to kids who prefer a quiet corner. Everything had to be safe and age appropriate, and we wanted the play to be as free of adults and rules as we could possibly make it.

With help from our wonderful maintenance crew, we removed all the furniture from our activity and story rooms. From the basement and the closets, we installed everything related to construction and transportation. Within a couple days, the rooms became a world of streets, tunnels and bridges. We even decorated our puppet house to look like a bus. We added a sand table and a small pool for sensory play, pop-up tunnel, bus and plane for active play, plastic hard hats for dramatic play and,

of course, blocks and trucks for manipulative and cooperative play. We set the age limit from three to six and invited children to bring their own truck to our "Great Truck and Construction Rally." The only purchases we made were cookies, juice, and play sand, which kept the cost very low.

The rules for the day were simple—no throwing anything and share with others. Otherwise children could take any of the trucks or construction materials anywhere in the rooms. They were allowed to move the tunnels, bridges and street signs. It was their day. We labeled their personal trucks with their names as they came in and stood back to watch.

With very little prompting, the children jumped in and began to enjoy themselves. Parents got into the act, playing in the sand table and building tall skyscrapers. For two hours, children played together building houses, climbing in and out of the pop-ups, pushing trucks around, and constructing sandcastles.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Parents loved the event and urged us to do it again. Everyone left telling us how much fun they had had, and what a great job we did. Many parents commented how great it was to let the kids just play! It was exactly what we had hoped to hear. And for the record, every child who came in registered for the summer reading club, and almost every construction book in two large displays disappeared!

Piaget said, "Knowledge arises neither from objects nor the child, but from interactions between the child and those objects." Getting children and objects together in a large space proved to be one of the best summer events the Russell Library staff has put together in a long time. ■

*Laura Larsen is a children's librarian at Middletown's Russell Library.*



*Russell Library's "Great Truck & Construction Rally."*

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# TECHNOLOGY

## Firefox: A New and Useful Browser



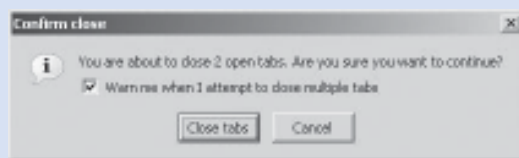
Isabel Danforth  
Technology Columnist

**Mozilla's Firefox 1.0 is here and ready for use.** This is the production version of the browser that has descended from Netscape. The Mozilla Foundation, established in July 2003 with start-up support from AOL's Netscape division, exists to provide organizational, legal, and financial support for the Mozilla open-source software project. ([www.mozilla.org/foundation](http://www.mozilla.org/foundation)). This browser may be able to challenge the dominance of Internet Explorer. It is free and has been developed to work on Windows98 and above, Mac OS X, and Linux.

Downloading Firefox from the mozilla.org web site is easy. During installation, I was asked if I wanted to import bookmarks and such from my existing browser. I said yes, and there they were. Brand new, yet filled with my familiar places.

I have been using Netscape 7.1 for quite a while and really like the tabbed browsing that it offers. Tabbed browsing allows you to view a new web site while keeping an existing one open. With Firefox, you need not go to the bottom of your screen to switch sites, but can just click on the desired tab. The tool bars and menus on Firefox resemble those on Netscape. There is a search box on the right-hand end of the bar. The default search engine is Google, but you can select from quite a few others or add any that you wish.

One problem I have had with Netscape is that I sometimes click on that X in the upper right corner and close the browser when I only meant to close one of the tabs. Firefox has a wonderful warning that tells me that I am about to close both tabs and asks if I want to continue (see below). That alone is worth going through the download process



I commonly use the Control-F in a browser to do a 'find in the page' function. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Firefox places those keys in a bar at the bottom of my screen, just above the status bar. As I typed in the letters FTP, the page scrolled down to the first appearance of those letters. If I had been searching for a longer string, I could have stopped typing when the page scrolled to what I wanted to find. Conveniently, this find bar does not cover the portion of the page that might just have the text for which I was searching.



Since Firefox is open-source, many people have contributed to the effort, creating themes and extensions for the browser. These are available as separate packages at the mozilla web site. Themes provide different color schemes and change the way your browser looks. Sixty-three themes are currently available. Extensions are add-ons such as tool bar buttons or those that add new functionality to the browser. There are 175 extensions available.

Mozilla.org is now creating a mini version of Firefox, the Minimo Project, for web browsing PDAs. They hope to offer high end web browsing within a small, PDA sized package. I am very pleased with Firefox. It offers everything I liked about Netscape and also has several great features I have not seen in other browsers.

### Update on my Service Pack 2 (SP2) Upgrade

In the October issue of *Connecticut Libraries* I wrote about my difficulties upgrading my home computer, running the Microsoft WindowsXP, with the Service Pack 2 (SP2). I was unable to resolve a number of the problems, so I finally uninstalled SP2 and was back where I started. To give Microsoft credit, the uninstall went very well. The functionality of the machine was back to where it had been. It also told me that several pieces of software had been upgraded while SP2 was in place and that I might need to deal with problems there. However, none of those programs have occurred.

After removing SP2, I did download the ZoneAlarm. It has a free firewall for home computers and will provide me with the protection that SP2 was intended to provide. (ZoneAlarm was reviewed in the January 2003 issue of *Connecticut Libraries*.) Now that I have my own firewall and my Norton Antivirus is back at work again, I feel a lot more secure.

*Isabel Danforth is Director of Library Services, International College of Hospitality Management, Suffield.*

*I am very pleased with Firefox. It offers everything I liked about Netscape and also has several great features I have not seen in other browsers.*

## The NYT Honors Two CT Librarians

Two Connecticut librarians are among those recently honored with a prestigious New York Times Librarian Award: Barbara Cangiano, reference supervisor at the James Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford, and Elzbieta Cyran, head of technical services at the New Britain Public Library. Each of the 27 librarians so honored, from among 1500 nominations nation-wide, received \$2500 and a commemorative plaque. A separate plaque was also sent to each winner's library.

### Barbara Cangiano

received her MLS in 1989 from Columbia University and worked as a reference librarian there before coming to the Blackstone Library ten years ago. She has had a great deal of experience with computer technology, including programming and troubleshooting, an asset that serves her well at Blackstone.



Mostly though, Barbara is to be commended for her research skills and especially for her exemplary customer service skills. She has received many accolades in her years at Blackstone from patrons and staff concerning her ability to help, to empathize, to instruct, and to follow through and ferret out all pertinent information, no matter the request. Most admirable is her ability to do this with a winning smile and a sincere desire to make everyone's library experience a pleasant one. She often goes beyond the call of duty to help patrons and has even been known to do research for people who are hospitalized, on vacation, away at college, or even serving overseas.

One of our patrons wrote the following in support of Barbara's nomination for the NYT Award:

"I first met Barbara Cangiano when I was researching materials for a continuing education course on managed care that I was moderating. I wanted to present information on

international health care but had no idea how to start. With enthusiasm, knowledge, and a clear understanding of the task at hand, Barbara helped me tackle the job. Simultaneously, she opened my eyes to the world at my fingertips through our library. The course, thanks to her, has been extremely popular in over 13 states where I teach.

"Barbara has been there for me, to help, instruct, guide and lead in a way that instantly heightens one's awareness of self and the wonderful world around us. It happens because of her passion for books and learning and for people.

"About two years ago I received a call for help, via email, from my son who was serving in the Navy in the Persian Gulf. As executive officer of the USS Monterey, a guided missile cruiser, one of his tasks was to acquaint newly arrived sailors with the rich history of the ship's namesake, the Battle of Monterey. He needed some good material for this briefing. Barbara jumped right in and helped me prepare a great précis on this battle. It was sent to my son and is used regularly, to his delight and that of his new crew.

"The Blackstone Memorial Library, indeed the Town of Branford, is a better place because of Barbara. Our library may be in a historic building and it may have terrific resources, but the real treasure is its people. I feel a great sense of ownership in this library. Barbara and her colleagues make me want to use this resource. They make me want to borrow its books and tapes. They invite me to share its learning. They make me feel welcome. They have taught me that no research project is too trivial or too daunting. She and her staff represent the kind of people that have met the challenge of true public service."

We feel very fortunate to have someone as special, and as personable and knowledgeable as Barbara. We are honored, as is she, by this award.

*Kathy Rieger, Director, Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford*

Elzbieta Cyran emigrated from Poland in 1981. Although she had earned a five-year diploma in library



science and a master's degree in managerial economics in Poland, she worked in menial jobs here as she learned English by visiting the library and reading children's books.

When her husband found a job in New Britain, she began working as a circulation clerk at the library. This gave her practice using English and she soon applied for a job in the Technical Services department and enrolled in SCSU's MLS program. She completed her course work in 1989 and was appointed department head in 1990.

Elzbieta has worked tirelessly to make the library accessible and welcoming for everyone in the community. She is active in New Britain's Polish community, and has solicited the Polish-American Congress for support and funding for Citizenship Classes and to buy Polish language materials for the 20% of the local population that is of Polish descent. She regularly visits these classes to introduce the library and its resources to the students as they learn important life skills.

Elzbieta is often called upon to meet with Polish-speaking patrons who are looking for information, to make signs, to translate forms or documents, and to write press releases in Polish. She selects materials for adults and children in their native language. Several times she has spent days in Polish bookstores during vacation trips "home" to choose books for the library. Then, she catalogs these materials for OCLC.

As a department head, Elzbieta hires, trains and supervises the staff that maintains the library's collections, overseeing the ordering and cataloging materials and managing our computer network. "Elzbieta is thoughtful in a world that is often too busy for small kindnesses. She never fails to offer words of encouragement and praise; her 'thank you's' and comments like 'You did such a good job,' have gotten many people through difficult times," says a

*Continued on page 10*

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### CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

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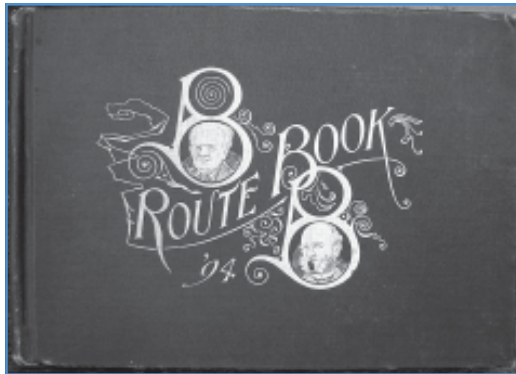
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## TREASURES

Continued from page 1



1894 hardbound Barnum & Bailey Route Book

Another drawer contains photos, broadsides, and articles featuring Jumbo the elephant, star of the Barnum & Bailey Circus for three years (until hit by a locomotive in 1885), and in yet another are illustrations and documents related to Iranistan, Lindencroft, Waldemere and Marina, Barnum's Bridgeport residences.

A copy of Barnum's last will and testament, published soon after his death, shows many of his benefactions to the city of Bridgeport. Since the city served as the winter quarters of the "Greatest Show on Earth" for nearly fifty years, it is understandable that the archive is rife with local history. Circus workers would become locals in the off-season, contributing to the life of the city and its industrial growth.

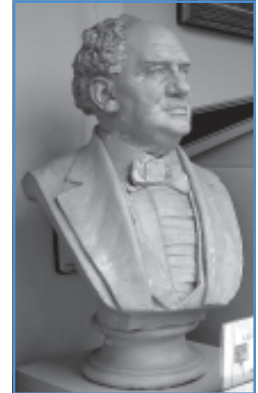
The Circus Collection includes a large number of monographs on Barnum and circus history, and all are represented in the catalog. One set of shelves is devoted entirely to multiple editions of Barnum's life, including five copies of *The Life of P.T. Barnum, Written by Himself* (New York: Redfield, 1855), which he revised many times over the years, and the interestingly titled *The Story of My Life: a Personal Narrative, Covering a Period of Seventy-five Years (1810 to 1885)... to which is added, The Art of Money Getting ...* (Cincinnati: Forshee & McMakin, 1885).

Barnum was a prolific writer on subjects associated with him as well, and works include *The Humbugs of the World: An Account of Humbugs, Delusions, Impositions, Quackeries, Deceits and Deceivers Generally, in All Ages* (New York: Carleton, 1886) and *The Wild Beasts, Birds, and Reptiles of the World: The Story of Their Capture* (New York: R.S. Peale & Co., 1888).

General and contemporary works on the circus include *Circus: The Development and Significance of the Circus, Past, Present, and Future*, by Rodney N. Manser (Blackburn, England: Richford, 1987), *Circus Nights and Circus Days: Extracts from the Diary of a Circus Man*, by A.H. Kober (New York:

W. Morrow & Co., 1931), *Here We Are Again: Recollections of an Old Circus Clown*, by R.A. Sherwood (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1926), and Philip B. Kunhardt's *P.T. Barnum: America's Greatest Showman* (New York: Knopf, 1995), which was researched at the Circus Collection.

The reading room of the Historical Collections can be identified easily by the newcomer: located on the third floor of the library, it features a marble bust of P.T. Barnum and the desk he used when mayor of Bridgeport. The collection does not circulate but is open to the public. Mary Witkowski, head



P.T. Barnum

of Historical Collections, recommends that those interested in seeing the Circus Collection call ahead (203-576-7417) so that staff will be available. For more information, go to [www.bridgeportpubliclibrary.org/Burroughs/HC/HTML/HCmaterials.htm](http://www.bridgeportpubliclibrary.org/Burroughs/HC/HTML/HCmaterials.htm) ■

*Earl Roy is Catalog Librarian for the Map Collections, History & Social Sciences Team, Yale University Library.*

## THE NYT HONORS TWO CT LIBRARIANS

Continued from page 9

colleague. She is a good leader, and her department serves the staff and the library's customers well.

Elzbieta is active in the community. She organized the New Britain sponsorship of Polish athletes during the Special Olympics, and she works with church and civic organizations, spending many hours with immigrants and helping them get the information and services they need.

The innovations Elzbieta has introduced, like Citizenship Classes, have led to over 400 residents becoming citizens; many of them have become library users as well. By providing resources and programs, Elzbieta Cyran has given them tools to work with. She is a good teacher, making sure that people learn how to help themselves, rather than doing things for them. She has made the library a vital center of education in the community. ■

*Pat Holloway, Director, New Britain Public Library.*

# Nominations Sought for CLA Awards 2005

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 2004. 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.

## **SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**

This award promotes the role and image of library assistants and support staff. For requirements and criteria, see [cla.uconn.edu/awards/ssyear.html](http://cla.uconn.edu/awards/ssyear.html).

## **SUPPORTER OF SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**

This award recognizes library administrative staff who promote the role of library assistants and support staff in the library and information science fields. For requirements and criteria, see [cla.uconn.edu/awards/ssyear.html](http://cla.uconn.edu/awards/ssyear.html) for requirements and criteria.

## **FAITH HEKTOEN AWARD**

The CLA Children's Section awards the Faith Hektoen Award, recognizing an outstanding children's program during the last two years or an on-going program that has made a significant impact on library service to children in Connecticut. Nominations may be made by anyone in the library community, excepting current selection committee members, and are due on or before **February 11, 2005**. Contact Suzanne Maryeski, [smaryeski@farmingtonlibct.org](mailto:smaryeski@farmingtonlibct.org) or 860-673-6791; or Rose Marie Zaharek, [rzaharek@newcanaanlibrary.org](mailto:rzaharek@newcanaanlibrary.org) or 203-594-5011 for forms and information.

## 2005 CLA Awards – Instructions and Nomination Form

Use this form for the seven awards listed below.

Complete nominations must be received by **March 1, 2005**. Incomplete nominations will not be judged. Nominations will be judged by the 8-member CLA Awards Committee. Each nomination should include 8 copies of the following:

- A narrative explaining the nominee's achievements (**1000 words or less**)
- An introduction of the nominee to be read at the awards ceremony (**100 words or less**)
- Letters of support for the nominee from others
- This nomination form

This nomination is for:

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adeline Mix          | <input type="checkbox"/> News Media            | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Achievement                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Staff of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Freedom | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Librarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter of Support Staff of the Year |  |

Person(s) being nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Library affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) making the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send 8 copies of the complete nomination to

Susan Smayda, CLA Awards, c/o Wallingford Public Library, 200 North Main St., Wallingford, CT 06492

## 2005 CLA Publications Awards 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 114th Annual CLA Conference, April 11-13, 2005, at the Omni Hotel in New Haven and honored at the Awards Reception.

### How to Enter

- Send 3 originals of each entry with a photocopy of the Entry Form (below) attached to each original. Send only 1 copy for the Poster category. Send only the URL for websites.
- Items created during calendar year 2004 are eligible.
- A library may submit one entry per category.
- Submit entries by **February 25, 2005** to:  
*Susan Muro, CT Humanities Council, 2911 Dixwell Avenue, Suite 203, 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awarded).

---

## ENTRY FORM – 2005 CLA PUBLICATIONS AWARD CONTEST

(Check one category & attach a copy of this form to **each** of the 3 originals.)

- |   |                                       |  |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography | <input type="checkbox"/> Bookmark      | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Poster       | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Flyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional Item (object: pin, AV, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic Project (3 or more coordinated items) | <input type="checkbox"/> Website      |  |   |

Library Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Designer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a description of the publication's purpose and marketing plan (50 words or less).

*Note: Only one copy required for Poster entries*

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Volume 47, Number 1

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