

# CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of  
the Connecticut  
Library  
Association

## Working On The Inside

Notes from a Prison Librarian

by Ted Wilmot

**F**ebruary 28, 2006: The library closed half an hour early today because there was an incident somewhere inside our perimeter fence. That required the attention of our correctional officer, removing him from the school building and shutting down all activities here, including the library. That's how it is when you work in a prison.

Sometimes it's a major incident, like a fight, or sometimes an officer has gone home sick from an area that must be supervised, and so we give up our officer to that post. It could be anything, and it could happen at any time. I wear a body alarm on my belt everyday; a small radio transmitter that I can activate or set for 'man down' to alert the prison control center that I need help *now!* Within a minute, as many officers as are available will *run* to my location to help. When I become aware that a 'code' has been called and if I am not supervising inmates, I will also *run* to their location to help them. Because I am not issued a radio, I usually don't know what the code is for—a fight between inmates, or a medical need, or a fire, or an assault on staff, or an escape attempt—

but when I hear the jingle of keys, meaning officers are responding to something at a *run*, I go too.

The Connecticut Department of Correction includes 18 institutions housing over 22,000 inmates. Its mission is to "protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration." Its two main divisions are custody and treatment. About a dozen facilities employ librarians or media specialists. All employees are responsible for custody; some of us, who work in the school or the library, also specialize in the treatment aspect of the work.

Alexander Lee, Stamford, CT

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I work in the Enfield Correctional Institution, a medium security "Level 3" facility housing about 730 convicted adult males. Felons are incarcerated here for a variety of crimes: parole violation, sale of drugs, theft, robbery, assault, kidnapping and murder. There are four other prisons within sight, which taken together house about one third of Connecticut's incarcerated population. My library supports educational programs as well as the recreational reading interests of the prison population. We offer reference service for a wide variety of questions and an area for job exploration and other transition materials. Although no longer are required to have a full law library, we also have some legal materials.

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[clauconn.edu](http://clauconn.edu)

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# OBVERSION

## The Titanic Library

I was introduced to Walter Lord's "Titanic book" at the tender age of eleven. Not much of a reader of non-fiction in previous years, but spending long days at a local hospital with my family tending to a convalescing relative, I settled into *A Night To Remember* and was totally captivated by the author's fine documentary writing and his compelling topic. Before our hospital vigil was over, I managed to read it at least four times and my passion for things Titanic has grown steadily ever since.

Recently, while doing some research into an aspect of the Titanic's history, I looked once again into *A Night To Remember* and came across a brief mention of the ship's library. The existence of a library on the Titanic was news to me and my interest was instantly piqued. The Lord book provided no further information, and an ongoing investigation of the many Titanic books in my personal collection proved fruitless until I consulted *Anatomy of the Titanic* by Tom McCluskie (Thunder Bay, 1998). McCluskie writes: "Another excellently appointed room, the library was paneled in sycamore wood... [with] mahogany furniture upholstered in tapestry. There was a large wooden bookcase situated



William Uricchio

at the forward end adjacent to the bulkhead; there were large windows on both sides, each draped with silk curtains..."

Encyclopedia-titanica.org, one of the larger Titanic websites, contains a lot of speculation in its chat pages about the nature of the library and includes information about someone called the "librarian." This turned out to be a 21-year-old steward named Thomas Kelland who, among other duties, was assigned to the library. He lived in Southampton and did not survive the disaster.

One of the questions addressed on encyclopedia-titanica is the source and number of books likely to have been on the doomed liner. Several correspondents noted that major suppliers, like Harrods, typically placed popular books on ocean liners and refreshed the collections after each voyage—sort of a seagoing McNaughton plan. No specific titles of books, magazines or other materials are known, but popular books at the end of 1911 included Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*, a number of Dickens' reissues, G. K. Chesterton's *Ballad of the White Horse*, *Hilda Lessways* by Arnold Bennett, and *The Iron Woman* by then-popular Margaret Deland.

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# BOOKS LOOKING AT

## North

by Frederick Busch (W.W. Norton & Company, 2005)

Jack's marriage had "gone south" fifteen years ago. He and his wife had divorced after the death of their infant daughter. Jack left his upstate New York home with his dog and made his way around the country, south and west, and then southeast. Along the way, he worked any kind of law enforcement or security job he could find. Jack is a natural born protector of the vulnerable. He has been a military policeman, a deputy sheriff, a college campus cop, a director of security at a mall, even a guard in a psychiatric clinic. By the time we meet him, Jack has sunk to the level of plainclothes security officer and bouncer at a resort hotel on the Carolina coast. His job is to keep "the guests safe from each other" and from those who would prey on them.

It is an incident at the resort hotel's bar that sends Jack back "north" again. He rescues a pretty New York City lawyer from an embarrassing, and potentially dangerous, encounter with a gigolo who is high on drugs. Impressed by Jack's ability to handle himself and sensing a mutual attraction, the lawyer, Merle Davidoff, invites Jack to visit her in New York. She has a job, a little detective work, that she thinks may interest him.

With little to lose and with an interest in seeing Merle Davidoff again, Jack heads north to hear her proposal. She has a nephew, Tyler Pearl, who has disappeared. Tyler is 23 years old and the son of Merle's dead sister. His stepfather is a successful businessman who had little time for Tyler once his wife died. Tyler has lived on his own for years. He has happily accepted money from his aunt and he has developed a serious gambling habit. Tyler has recently dropped out of sight somewhere in upstate New York.

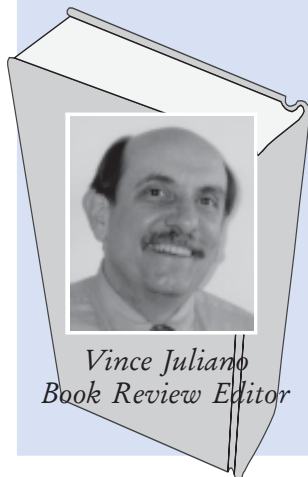
In Merle's view, Tyler is harmless and probably helpless, but she is worried because he has always had a knack for getting into trouble. She suspects that he has piled up big gambling debts and that some really bad people may be after

him. Merle needs someone tough and experienced to find Tyler. Jack seems to fill the bill. Merle tells Jack that Tyler's last known location is someplace upstate, a small town called Vienna. Merle has no idea where it is. Jack does. Vienna is only a few miles from where he and his wife lived, a place Jack associates with failure and tragedy. Jack's trip north is more than merely a search for Tyler Pearl. It is a return to the unfinished business of Jack's past.

Jack intrigues women. Likewise, Jack has a weakness for women, especially strong women. When he walks Merle Davidoff to safety after the resort incident, he takes pleasure in holding her firm upper arm. Merle is not the only strong woman in Jack's northern adventure. His return to rural New York brings him into contact with an old flame, a strong woman who is holding her family together as her husband withers away with terminal cancer. Jack's inquiries about Tyler Pearl draw the attention of Georgia Bromwell, a wealthy, wild and athletic woman journalist. Georgia claims she wants to do a story on Jack. Jack knows that she wants more than a story from him.

Jack is tough, tough enough to take on society's bad guys, tough enough to mercy-kill his beloved dog. He is tough enough to keep to himself an awful secret about his marriage. But toughness is not enough to prevent Jack from being haunted by the death of his infant child. Jack is tormented by the suicide of his ex-wife and his failure to locate the body of a kidnapped child named Janice Tannner. In the winter cold, so many years ago, in this upstate town, he searched for that girl's body as her mother looked on. He tested the snow, again and again, with the long handle of a shovel, feeling blindly for that soft bump that would at least bring the mother some closure on her family tragedy. Jack's toughness will help him solve the

*Continued on page 12*



Vince Juliano  
Book Review Editor

## OBVERSION

Continued from page 2

Lack of knowledge about the holdings of the Titanic's library has not stopped the development of a surely apocryphal claim that one book in its collection was Morgan Robertson's 1898 novella *Futility*. Some say *Futility*, about the disastrous iceberg wreck of a giant liner called the Titan, predicted the Titanic's demise. It's a little too ironic for me to believe that this particular title would have made an appearance in such a location, although one does have to wonder at the choice of Titanic for a ship name given *Futility's* theme.

More interesting than the Titanic library's splendiferous appointments, which Tom McCluskie sums up as providing "a general air of comfort and luxury," was its placement on the ship. The space we have been discussing was known as "The Second Class Library" and it had no obvious counterpart in the other classes. As verified by an analysis of the liner's deck plans, First Class public accommodations included extensive restaurants, a large smoking room, and a small "reading and writing room" apparently designed to be a social gathering place for female passengers, much as the smoking room was for the males, but no library per se. Third Class had a number of common areas and none of the specialized rooms available to wealthier travelers.

The existence of a library only in Second Class begs a few questions worthy of further research. What was the purpose, beyond that indicated by its name, of the "Second Class Library"? Was it an egalitarian meeting place where men and women could gather socially without the gender apartheid imposed on First Class passengers? Is it possible that First Class passengers didn't want or need a library? Did they perhaps reject the notion that the wealthy should borrow from or share books with each other? Could it be that the Titanic's wealthy owners, whose number included Connecticut's own J.P. Morgan, believed along with Andrew Carnegie that the fortunate had an obligation to tend to the informational and recreational needs of the less fortunate? And, to some extent, was the social microcosm of the Titanic a mirror of the larger society of its time?

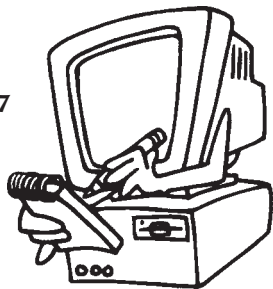
Of one thing we can be sure—a diving expedition to the Titanic to examine the contents of its library would reveal nothing but the ravages of time. You may remember one of the funnier televised events of yore when Telly Savalas, Kojak himself, hosted a program from Paris that featured a live opening of two of the Titanic's smaller safes. It aired in 1987

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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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Alice Knapp

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Cooking Up a Conference

The recipe for a successful CLA annual conference (and I know the one in May will be a success!) contains many ingredients. The volunteers, who are drawn from the CLA Board, its sections, committees, and roundtables, as well as from the friends and trustees of libraries across the state, are the basic components that are blended together by the conference co-chairs—this year, Anita Barney and Betsy Bray.

By the time each new CLA Board meets for the first time in July, the conference co-chairs have already been at work for a year shadowing the previous co-chairs. Usually, the conference date and location (added seasonings for this recipe) have already been set, and sometimes the theme, this year—"Energize Your Mind, Relax Your Body"—has been selected as well.

New board members are encouraged to start thinking immediately about the conference programs (the next major ingredient) they want to present. By the time September rolls around, several programs will already be in place. And typically, all the programs must be identified by November, when the conference co-chairs, the Exhibits Committee and the conference coordinator, meet to map out the conference schedule (a background spice—comparable to salt—that no one notices when it works but everyone complains about when it doesn't).

This year we have combined great volunteers, wonderful programs, an unusual and relaxing new location—Mountainside Resort in Wallingford—and a new time, May instead of April. And we have cooked up a fantastic conference. Here are some samples to tempt you.

Monday's pre-conferences are wonderful. In the morning, come learn from "Beginning the Readers' Advisory Conversation: Tools, Techniques, and Tips," featuring Joyce G. Saricks, author of *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction* and *Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library*; she will discuss the importance of helping leisure readers find the books they want to read. The afternoon session will feature, Diana Tixier Herald, author of *Genreflecting*, *Fluent in Fantasy*, and *Strictly Science Fiction in Genrefluency: Providing Readers' Advisory to Genre Readers*.

A second pre-conference, "Rhyme Verses Rap: Poetry for Kids," has been organized by the Children's and Young Adult Sections. It will present an opportunity to meet three innovative poets whose works have lots of kid appeal: Paul B. Janezko, Patricia Hubbell, and Charles R. Smith, Jr. And of course, for those who simply want to relax and perhaps improve their golf game, we will have CLA's first ever Golf Tournament.

Over the course of the next two days, wonderful authors, such as Bill Barnes and Jane Yolen, will inspire you. Workshops will introduce you to the latest technology and how to use it in your library, e.g., "After AACR2" and "The Future Is Now: Web 2.0 and You." And, of course, there will be several programs devoted to your personal development: "Life after Libraryland," "Conquering Clutter at Work and at Home," and "I Got my MLS. Where are the Jobs?"

The program that may be most meaningful to me, and vitally important to all of us, is "John Doe vs. Gonzalez: Connecticut Challenges the Patriot Act." No matter where you stand personally on the issues now before the courts, this program will give you the opportunity to hear ACLU lead counsel Ann Beeson discuss this significant case, the resolution of which will have an impact on your library service, and perhaps on your life.

The exhibits always add spice to the conference, permitting you to see new products, meet new vendors and visit with familiar ones. It's a good place to find out what's happening in the library marketplace and to work on deals for your library.

Finally, we'll garnish the conference with the peaceful atmosphere of Mountainside Resort with its pool and beautiful grounds for long, quiet walks, warm May days, and a low-key approach to dress—no heels, no neckties, no suits. All of these ingredients are sure to combine in a most unusual and tasty 2006 conference. I hope you will be there to partake! See [cla.uconn.edu/](http://cla.uconn.edu/) for program details and a registration form.

Contact Alice Knapp at [aknapp@fergusonlibrary.org](mailto:aknapp@fergusonlibrary.org).

# HIGHLIGHTS

**President** Alice Knapp read a thank you note from UConn for CLA's \$1,000 contribution to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Children's Book Fair in November. CLA executive officers met with Chris Bradley to discuss expanding CLC's role to include contract administration for CLA. The association's administrative assistant and bookkeeper already are under CLC contract. Betsy Bray stated the need for the CLA Board to continue to have input regarding hiring and performance of contractors and to approve any change in personnel. The officers also discussed the possibility of moving the CLA office from ECSU to CLC offices in Middletown. The move would provide backup for the administrative assistant and a small conference room for CLA. The cost would be about \$2,000 annually plus moving costs. Currently, CLA does not pay rent. Martha Simpson asked whether housing the two organizations together would further blur the lines of division between CLA and CLC. Chris Bradley will draft a contract proposal for members to review before the April board meeting.

**Treasurer** Jan Fisher reported a checking account balance of \$24,920 and investments totaling \$116,205.

**Nominations** Chris Bradley presented the 2006-2007 slate of CLA executive officers: Barbara Bailey, VP/president elect; Jan Fisher, treasurer; Jay Johnston, ALA representative. Regional representatives: Betsy Bray, 2; Siobhan Grogan, 3; Theresa Conley, 6. (See pages 6-7 for more information.)

**Vice President** Tom Geoffino, Chris Bradley, and 2007 conference co-chairs Cynde Leahy and Carol Ronald toured the CT Convention Center in Hartford and were pleased with the accommodations as the site of the 2007 CLA conference.

**Conference 2006** Betsy Bray and Anita Barney noted that the conference registration form and information packet are posted on the CLA website. SCSU and LTA students may be invited to work as conference volunteers in exchange for free attendance.

**ALA** Jay Johnston noted the Allied Professional Association's adoption of the term "library worker" to define library employees. ALA-APA rewards exceptional librarians and library workers who have advanced the cause of better salaries and status. The designation is established at [www.ala.apa.org](http://www.ala.apa.org), where public and staff can acknowledge their favorite library worker. ALA is directing the ALA School Libraries Task Force and the ALA executive director to write to all US legislators regarding the "vital importance" of including instructional staff support services with instruction expenditures in determining the percentage spent on "classroom instruction" of the 65-Percent Solution legislation.

**CLC** Chris Bradley reported that the CLC Board of Directors voted to include an ex-officio representative from CLA; the CLA VP/president elect will assume this role.

**CEMA** Frances Nadeau announced a CEMA workshop, "Copyright and Digital Material" with Carrie Russell, Saturday, April 29, 8 - 1, at Cheshire High School.

**CSL** Sharon Brettschneider noted that the proceeds (\$5,319.41) from the Barnes and Noble "Love Your Library" promotion will be used for training sessions in the use of the Historic Hartford Courant. CSL is reviewing 22 applications for Library Service and Technology grants. The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge Award has been created by CSL and the State Department of Education to honor an outstanding public library/school summer reading partnership for the summer of 2005.

**Friends** Mary Engels reported the Friends are accepting applications for their annual awards until April 14. Awards will be given at the Friends annual meeting on June 3. See the FOCL website for information.

**Legislative** Peter Ciparelli thanked Suzanne Maryeski for her work on the Legislative Breakfast. He reported that Senator Mary Ann Handley will introduce a bill for increased funding for Connecticut. Senators John Kissel, Andrea Stillman, and Representative Betsy Ritter have also introduced legislation to increase funding for C-Card.

**Membership** CLA office reported 954 current members.

**Procedures** Sandy Brooks proposed a number of changes to the CLA by-laws. (See details elsewhere on this page.)

## CLA Bylaws: Proposed Changes

by Sandy Brooks

The following proposed changes to CLA bylaws have been approved by the CLA Executive Board and will be submitted for membership approval at the annual business meeting on Wednesday, May 10. Proposed changes are in italics. For more detail, please see [cla.uconn.edu/proposed\\_bylaws\\_changes\\_2006.html](http://cla.uconn.edu/proposed_bylaws_changes_2006.html).

**Article VI Organization, Section 1: Sections, d. ACTIVITIES**...Each section will draft a set of bylaws for approval of the Executive Board. *Subsequent bylaws revisions must also be approved by the Executive Board.*

Rationale: Since initial section bylaws must be approved by the Executive Board, it seems appropriate that proposed changes also be brought to the board for approval.

**Article VI Organization, Section 4: Standing Committees**...the president will nominate chairs for all standing committees except the Conference Program Committee *and the Nominations and Elections Committee*. The first vice-president will appoint the assistant co-chairs of the Program Committee, who automatically become Program co-chairs the following year. *The Nominations and Elections Committee's chair shall be the immediate past president of the association as specified in Article VI, Section 4, item g.*

Rationale: Added language makes this section agree with language in Article VI, Section 4, item g.

**Article VI Organization, Section 4: Standing Committees, PROCEDURES** This committee will study and recommend to the Executive Board revisions in the Association's constitution and bylaws, including section bylaws...*Its chair will track terms for elected members of the Executive Board and notify the Nominations Committee of positions open for election each year.*

Rationale: This is a new duty assigned to the chair of the Procedures Committee.

**Article VIII Election of Officers, Section 1: Candidates** The report of the Nominating Committee...will name at least one person for the offices of vice-president, secretary-treasurer (*delete "every third year"; change to "every second year"*), for the six offices of regional representatives (three each year), and for such other positions...

Rationale: Current language is in error. The secretary-treasurer serves a three-year term, the first year as secretary-treasurer elect and overlapping with the final year of the incumbent's term, requiring that a nominee be put forward every two years.

**Article VIII Election of Officers, Section 2: Elections**...The secretary-treasurer will be elected for a two-year term preceded by a one-year term as secretary-treasurer-elect (*unless being re-elected*).

Rationale: This language makes it clear that a re-elected secretary/treasurer would have a two-year term since they would not require an initial year of training as secretary/treasurer elect.

*Sandy Brooks is chair of the Procedures Committee.*

**"I love libraries, that's why I keep doing it,"** Jane McGinn responds, when asked how she manages to maintain her busy, travel-filled schedule of teaching, committee work, research, consulting, and speaking engagements. Because her commitment to libraries and librarianship is so apparent, it's hard to believe that she once planned on an entirely different career in fashion merchandising. Fortunately for the library world, a summer job at Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library in Washington, DC as a Howard University undergraduate, followed by a reference assistant job there after graduation, convinced Jane to switch focus and pursue an MLS.

Returning home to Greensboro, NC in the fall of 1976, Jane accepted a position at Greensboro PL's Northeast Branch as head of a children's reading improvement program and enrolled in the University of North Carolina's library school. When her grant-funded position ended, she spent a year as circulation assistant at UNC Greensboro's Library, but returned to Greensboro PL to administer the children's reading improvement program at Pomona Branch in 1979. Over the next five years, she filled a variety of positions at Greensboro PL, eventually becoming coordinator of services to the handicapped, which led to her learning basic American Sign Language.

Jane received her MLS in 1982 and, in 1985, left Greensboro PL to work as circulation librarian at North Carolina State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Raleigh. In 1988, she became head of patron services there and took on a second job as night school librarian at Hardbarger Junior College Library, where she did a bit of everything—reference, cataloging, acquisitions, and anything else required to keep the library running.

In 1989, Jane accepted the position of assistant state librarian for library development, in which she managed the operations of the North Carolina State Library's Library Development Section for three years. In this position, she negotiated with government officials regarding library funding, directed the distribution of state aid to libraries, and served as the state's chief consultant for library administration and personnel management. She also visited approximately 350 libraries throughout North Carolina annually and ensured that each one owned a computer and a fax machine, an incredible achievement, especially considering the tiny size of some of the libraries.

Jane had been guest lecturing for the library schools at the University of North Carolina/Greensboro and North Carolina Central University and had discovered that she enjoyed college teaching. So, in 1992, she left North Carolina to accept a student/teaching assistantship at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science where she could pursue her doctorate full-time, concentrating on library management, public and state libraries, young adult and children's services, and services to people with disabilities.

Completing her coursework in just one year, she began teaching library management and young adult services courses for the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University, which meant flying to Kansas one weekend a month. Soon, she was offered a position as director



*"I believe that there will always be libraries," says Jane McGinn, "and that librarianship can offer an exciting and dynamic career."*

of admissions for Emporia's MLS program, so she moved to Kansas, where she completed her dissertation in the spring of 1995, under the guidance of Dr. E.J. Josey.

With her PhD in hand, Jane became assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia, where she became involved in the distance education program, and for which she taught courses using two-way interactive television. She also began teaching for Emporia's regional graduate programs in library science, traveling to Oregon, Colorado, and North Dakota to deliver weekend courses to students in these programs. Despite her hectic schedule, Jane found time for personal life at this point in her career, when she met and eventually married the director of Emporia PL, Howard McGinn, in September 1995.

When Howard became executive director of the PORTALS Library Consortium in Portland, OR, Jane continued teaching in Emporia's regional program there and also began to coordinate Portland State University's library support services for distance education. In 1997, Howard was recruited as director of New Haven PL, and the couple moved to Connecticut. That fall, Jane began teaching library science courses part-time at SCSU while also working full-time as a library media specialist at the Jackie Robinson Middle School in New Haven.

In 1999, Jane agreed to move once again, when Clarion University (PA) offered Howard the position of dean of university libraries, and her the position of assistant professor in the department of library science. At Clarion, she helped found the Institute for the Study and Development of School Library Information Centers and created three new library science courses: Issues in Urban Librarianship, Management of Public Libraries, and Library Automation and Instructional Technology for Educators.

Jane's expertise in so many key areas of librarianship was sorely missed in New Haven; however, and in September 2001 she accepted an offer to be associate professor in the department of library and information science at SCSU. This was a difficult decision because it meant that she and their daughter Samantha would move back to New Haven, leaving Howard in Pennsylvania. Howard has since become dean of university libraries at Seton Hall in Orange, NJ, which permits him to come to Connecticut on weekends. This busy professional couple looks forward to their summer vacations on romantic Campobello Island, where they watch whales and relax without the disturbance of even an unwelcome phone call.

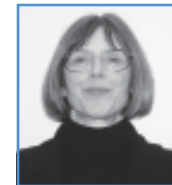
Since returning to SCSU, Jane has been heavily involved in teaching, and has developed the web-based versions of SCSU's School Library Media Centers and Library Automation courses. She also teaches Media Utilization and Curriculum, Foundations of Librarianship, and several other courses.

In addition, Jane is very active in ALA committee work: she co-chaired an ALA Task Force on Rural School, Tribal and Public Libraries, which conducted a nationwide survey to see how ALA could better support these libraries and issued a report to

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## Jane Moore McGinn

*Associate Professor,  
School of Library & Information Science,  
Southern Connecticut State University*



*by Carol Abatelli*

# Candidates For CLA Offices 2006/2007



*Barbara Bailey  
Director, Welles-  
Turner Memorial  
Library, Glastonbury*

The CLA Executive Board is pleased to present the following librarians for association offices, 2006/2007. Please plan to meet them at the Annual Business Meeting during the Annual Conference on Wednesday, May 10, at 8:30, when an election will be conducted. Each nominee has been asked to respond to the following questions:

- How long have you belonged to CLA?
- Why do you think it is important to belong?
- What is it about CLA that makes you proud to be a member?
- What is your favorite quote about libraries?

## VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

### Barbara Bailey

Director, Welles-Turner Memorial Library, Glastonbury

### Education

BA, University of Connecticut; MLS, University of Rhode Island

### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, NELA, ALA, PLA  
CLA, Regional Representative, 1989-1991;  
Editorial Chair, 2000-

### Candidate Statement

I joined CLA while in library school in the mid-1970s. I strongly believed then, and still do, that membership and participation in one's professional organization are extremely important to one's professional advancement as well as that of the profession. Over the years I have had the opportunity to attend many outstanding programs at conferences as well as those sponsored by the round tables that have helped me advance in my career. As a regional representative and chair of the Editorial Committee I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many great colleagues around the state.

In addition to the continuing education opportunities, I am proud of the stand that the association has taken on issues important to libraries. Two that come to mind are: 1) the resolution concerning helping ALA fight CIPA in 2001, and 2) the resolution concerning the USA Patriot Act in 2003. This year, CLA has played an active role speaking in defense of Doe in the "Doe vs. Gonzalez" case, whose outcome has yet to be determined. It is an honor to be nominated for vice president/president elect and I look forward to working with the membership to build on the good work of our predecessors.

My favorite quote about libraries is, "A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life,"

by Henry Ward Beecher. Libraries truly do serve people from all walks of life.

## TREASURER

### Jan Fisher

Library Business Manager  
Bridgeport Public Library

### Education

BA, St. Joseph College; MLS, Southern Connecticut State University

### Professional Activities

CLA, Representative to Public Library Section;  
Treasurer, 2003-; ALA Member

### Candidate Statement

I've belonged to CLA ever since I can remember! At least 20 years.

If we consider ourselves professionals it is important to maintain membership in our professional organizations and share our strengths with our colleagues. Meeting the challenges of the ever-changing field of librarianship can be difficult, but having a community of support and wisdom to provide resources and educational opportunities is crucial. CLA makes professional development very accessible through many opportunities, and connecting with others in the field is essential to becoming the best professionals we can be.

I live in a state that is filled with intelligent and innovative librarians who know what is worth work working for, and fighting for when necessary. CLA provides leadership examples for all of us. I have always felt that Connecticut has been in the forefront of developing new ideas, sharing resources, and getting things done for the good of our patrons.

"Libraries Change Lives," because they can and they should, and they do!

## REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE

### Betsy Bray

Director, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill

### Education

BA, Curry College; MLS, Saint John's University

### Professional Activities

CLA, Regional Rep 2003-2006; Co-Conference Chair, 2002 and 2006; President, 1985-86. NELA, President 1990-1991; North American Liaison Officer, Beatrix Potter Society 2001-

*Continued on page 7*



*Jan Fisher  
Library Business  
Manager,  
Bridgeport Public  
Library*

## CANDIDATES FOR CLA OFFICES 2006/2007

Continued from page 6

### Candidate Statement

As a member of CLA for 31 years, I have made many wonderful friends and colleagues who helped me with library issues, and gave me great ideas. CLA defends the rights of customers and staff, offers many continuing education opportunities, keeps us up to date on library trends and news, and supports important legislative programs such as Connecticutard.

Quote: "Bibliographic control is making order out of chaos." Not sure who said it but it was the first thing I learned in library school 31 years ago. Yes, we did learn how to type catalog cards! In a way, it still holds true as we wade through the many issues that librarians face today. The big family joke was that I made chaos out of order; check with Cora's crew to see if that is still true.

### REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

#### Siobhan M. Grogan

Director, Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester

#### Education

BA, Villanova University; MLS, Southern Connecticut State University

#### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, ALA

Eastern Connecticut Libraries, treasurer, 1999-2003; CLA Public Libraries Section, 2003-; CLC, Chair, Library Managers' Roundtable, 2004-

#### Candidate Statement

My director-mentor, Elsie Treggor, encouraged me to join CLA in the early 1990s, when she was also encouraging me to go to library school. I recall attending my first CLA conference and the feelings of excitement and enthusiasm as I chose workshops and meandered around the vendors' hall.

The learning and service opportunities, as well as the exchange of ideas and counsel in CLA, make me proud about choosing librarianship as a career.

My most recent favorite library quote (paraphrased) comes from a recent description of Librarian of the Year, Rivcah Sass, who has qualities I both admire and aspire to: "... a librarian is pragmatic and savvy but still sees the wonder."

### REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVE

#### Theresa Conley

Director, Lyme Public Library

#### Education

BA, Connecticut College; MLS, University of Rhode Island

### Professional Activities

CLA: Region 6 Representative 2002-2006; Public Library Section, Regional Representative 1994-1998, Chair 1998-2002, Vice-Chair 2002-2006

### Candidate Statement

I originally joined CLA in the late 1970s when I was in graduate school. There may have been some gaps in membership until I started working full-time in the profession, but I have been a continuous member since at least 1986.

Membership in CLA is important because it is imperative to keep up with the changing nature of our profession. I have learned so much from the talented and dedicated professionals who have been active in the association over the past two decades, and I have grown professionally through attending CLA's programs and conferences. In addition, membership allows an opportunity to support and uphold the ideals of librarianship and provides us a voice in the direction that our profession will take to continue fulfilling its mission in the future.

I am proud to be a member of CLA for two reasons; first because of the people who give so much of themselves to further their profession and support their colleagues. I am impressed at how generously CLA members share their time, experience, and advice with other professionals and how genuinely they exult in each other's successes and bolster each other in hard times. Secondly, I am proud of how CLA consistently and articulately defends the rights of citizens to read and access information freely without government intrusion or censorship.

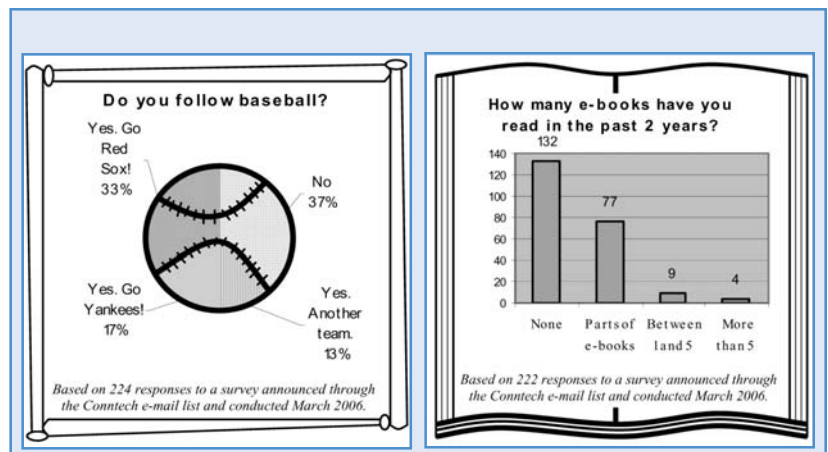
There are many library quotes that I love, but one that is particularly relevant today is by the journalist Carl Rowan who said, "The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history." ■



Betsy Bray  
Director,  
Cora J. Belden Library,  
Rocky Hill



Siobhan M. Grogan  
Director,  
Cragin Memorial  
Library, Colchester



## Local History Collections: Valued and Expanding

by Andrea Zimmermann

*Libraries have long recognized the value of preserving the sounds, memories, and faces of people integral to the community.*

Who built my 1823 house? Where is my great-grandmother buried? What did the town look like a hundred years ago? How has its boundaries changed? These are just a few of the questions patrons ask librarians in their quest to understand the historical geographies of their towns—both the physical as well as the economic and social landscapes.

In response to this growing interest, Connecticut libraries have expanded the scope of their holdings, applied for grants, partnered with historical societies, and initiated projects large and small to maintain or develop their local history collections. Many renovated or newly built libraries boast the inclusion of rooms dedicated to local history.

Responses to an informal ConnTech survey indicate that local history collections are anything *but* boring and static! This article offers a sampling of what (other than books and genealogies) is being collected by libraries. A second article, to be published in a future issue of *Connecticut Libraries*, will focus on how libraries can preserve their special collections and make them accessible to users.

**Strut your stuff!** Libraries often collect material about town benefactors or a very specific aspect or period of town history. For instance, the Rockville PL in Vernon has family memorabilia of the local industrialist who funded the construction of the library in 1893, including textiles and photographs from the period.

Redding's Mark Twain Library has a large collection of photographs and other artifacts of and clippings about its literary namesake, who founded the library in 1909. And Enfield PL has the Reverend Yale Collection among its photographic holdings.

Old Lyme, home to the well-known American Impressionist art colony, afforded its library a special opportunity. Because art was "so central

to the community, the Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library would participate by having summer art exhibitions for these local artists," says Jennifer Miele, head of adult services. "Through donations and gifts the library has accumulated a number of beautiful

artworks that are on continual exhibit...including two impressionist pieces by Clark Voorhees."

Stratford Library Association collects the programs of the community's celebrated American Shakespeare Theatre.

Architectural surveys of significant older buildings are found in many local history collections. Patrons regularly ask for assistance in finding out who built their homes and who lived in them before they did. Among the papers left to the Mark Twain Library by Redding historian Margaret Wixted are fifty house histories with photographs, and 150 histories of families, including land transfers.

**Capture the Stories** Libraries have long recognized the value of preserving the sounds, memories, and faces of people integral to the community. Shelton's Plumb Memorial Library and the Shelton Historical Society collaborated on *Crackerbarrel Memories*, a program where long-time residents of the community discuss the city in the "old days." Stratford Library Association initiated *Stratford Remembers World War II: On the Front Lines & On the Home Front*, soliciting wartime memories and photographs from people who lived in the community during that period.

The country's bicentennial year inspired a number of Connecticut libraries to capture oral histories on audio and videotape. Greenwich Library has transcribed, bound, and circulated decades of interviews conducted by its Friends. Farmington Library initiated a video oral history project to capture the stories of local veterans. And Bridgeport PL's historical collections staff interviewed local residents about their work experiences in Bridgeport.

**In Conjunction With...** Twenty years ago, when the Avon Free PL agreed to become caretaker of the town historical society's research collection, it arranged for the society to provide volunteers to staff its history room. "When the historical society is given a paper artifact, it passes it on to the library. If someone were to give the library an artifact such as an andiron, we'd give it to the society," says director Virginia Vocelli.

Newtown's Cyrenius H. Booth Library persuaded the publisher of the weekly local paper, *The Newtown Bee*, to pay for microfilming the fragile bound issues from 1900 to 1920; the library took responsibility for inspecting, housing and making available the films.

Middletown's Russell Library is collaborating with Wesleyan University to digitize maps from the library's local history collection. The

*Continued on page 11*



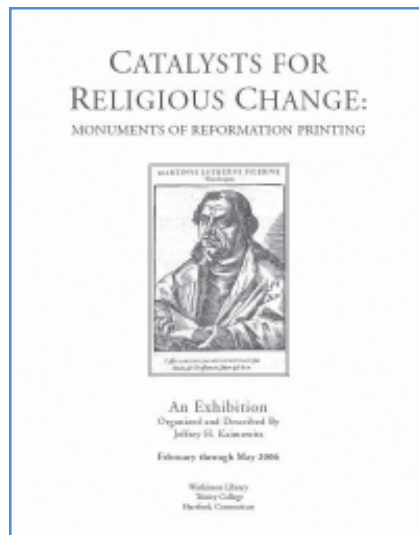
*Middlegate School House, Class of 1908  
From the Newtown Historical Images Archive*

# TREASURES

Special collections libraries may seem irrelevant in modern times...until you spend some time in one. After just a half-hour viewing the Watkinson Library's latest exhibition, *Catalysts for Religious Change: Monuments of Reformation Printing*, most thoughtful visitors will see how relevant history captured in print really is. The religious, political, and social changes of the Reformation, as seen in the printed books of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, remain relevant today as modern society struggles with its own outbreaks of religious and sectarian strife. Intolerance, bigotry, censorship, propaganda, satire, all important elements in the Reformation, are more than just reflected in the printed books of the period; these books helped make history just as surely as the intolerance, bigotry, censorship, propaganda, and satire (e.g., Danish cartoons of Mohammed) of today's media are helping make modern history. This is one of the reasons why the special exhibitions and collections of the Watkinson Library at Trinity College provide such a valuable resource in Connecticut.

The Watkinson Library is not just the special collections library of Trinity College, it is also a library intended for public use. The "nearly 200,000 volumes...include late medieval manuscripts and early printed books, a vast array of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century British and American publications, important 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century literary manuscripts, diverse ephemera collections, a comprehensive collection of ornithology books, and a large collection of modern private press books." Founded in 1857 for "all citizens and other residents and visitors in the State of Connecticut," the Watkinson Library still serves these patrons as well as providing Trinity's academic community with convenient access to some of the finest research collections in New England.

Jeffrey Kaimowitz, head librarian and curator of the Enders Collection, Peter Knapp, special collections librarian and college archivist, and Sally Dickinson, special collections librarian and cataloger, are actively involved in promoting the research value of the library. This is the motivation for the regular exhibitions that they design and organize approximately twice per year. These exhibitions usually highlight existing material, but sometimes the staff will purchase or borrow items to help complete the story described in the exhibitions. *Alternative Voices: Artists' Books, Comix, and Zines*, a recent exhibition of contemporary work from the Watkinson collections, was of special interest to librarians and others interested in the book as an art form. This exhibition helped show how artists have used the physical book as a vehicle for artistic expression.



The current exhibition on Reformation printing highlights an impressive collection of early printed books from German, Swiss, French, British and other printers. As stated in the catalog introduction, "it begins with pre-Reformation criticism of the Catholic Church, in particular that of Savonarola, Sebastian Brant, and Erasmus. There follow cases on Luther and Lutheranism, Swiss Protestantism, especially Zwingli and Calvin, free thinkers and dissenters, the Catholic Counter-Reformation, the Reformation in England, and the English Bible from Tyndale to the Authorized Version of King James I."

By design, the book choices illustrate mostly the religious debate and struggle of the Reformation. At the same time, the books themselves helped make history as their existence affected the religious, social, and political change of the period. The Reformation may be the first major historical event where a new information technology played a crucial role in promoting change, just as the Internet today seems to play a similar role in affecting modern events. Exhibitions like this one helps us remember how the past so clearly repeats itself, no matter how hard we may try to avoid it.

All of the works that make up the Reformation exhibition come from the Watkinson's own holdings. These include an impressive number of manuscript books of hours, 200 incunabula and over 1000 16<sup>th</sup> century books. Much of this material demonstrates the development of fine printing techniques and includes many illustrated books. Librarians interested in the book arts would do well to explore the library's holdings.

Americana, especially 19<sup>th</sup> century material, is Watkinson's strongest subject area. Included here are collections on the Civil War, slavery and abolition, Indians of North America, schoolbooks, etiquette, and popular and church music. Other important subjects are botany, architecture, archaeology, Bibles, British History, children's literature, the classical tradition, jazz, religious history, voyages and travels, women's studies, and World War I.

Famous English and American authors are well represented in the Watkinson printed literature collections, which also include many examples of major private press titles from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Among its extensive manuscript collections are original documents by Charles Dudley Warner, Robert Frost, E. A. Robinson, Lydia Sigourney, Sir Walter Scott and others. The papers of notable Connecticut residents include those of the politician Odell Shepard, the musician and composer Nathan Allen, author

*Continued on page 12*



Tom Newman

*Famous English and American authors are well represented in the Watkinson printed literature collections, which also include many examples of major private press titles from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

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## WORKING ON THE INSIDE

*Continued from page 1*

Even as a non-uniformed staff member, I have responded to an incident that started as an inmate fight and turned into a major effort to save a prisoner's life; we were not successful but not for lack of trying. The officers directly involved received commendations for their actions and acknowledgements that they had acted in a professional manner. I have been at Enfield long enough to remember when it was a Level 4 facility and incidents were common—including major riots. Many years ago, I stood in the library looking across the compound toward a housing unit on fire, while inmates with hoods over their heads smashed every window they could reach, including those in the library. The result was a lockdown extending from before Thanksgiving to after New Year's Day.

Inmates have no voice in where they do their time. Once, my entire staff of inmate clerks was transferred out during the course of a single week because their security level had been dropped. Conditions in a prison do not allow for privacy; every inmate is strip-searched coming in and going out. Yet, I have had books stolen as soon as they have been purchased, and I still lose books. One wonders how a prison library can lose books, but it happens.

But, these are the things that make my job different from other librarian's jobs. Most of the time I do the usual things, like loan books or train my clerks to be more accurate. I select and catalog donated books to the collection or, once a year, books that have been specifically purchased for the library. I help patrons find books to suit their needs and interests. I train the men to be responsible library users, in prison or when they are released: don't disturb other patrons, renew or return a borrowed book in a timely fashion, etc.

I do have some leverage that public and academic librarians might envy; I could put a man into segregation for a week or two for destruction of state property. But I am more likely to send overdue notices with a rather strong message: "If you ignore the rules you could end up with fines, extra duty, restrictions on your recreation or even spend some time in the restricted housing unit." Fines don't work as an incentive when a man either has no job or his pay is seventy-five cents a day. The penalty is usually "3 and 10"—three days loss of recreation and 10 hours of extra duty.

Some libraries boast about the years of experience represented by their staff. My

perspective is a bit different—my five inmate clerks have been sentenced to a combined total of 55 years. My pool of candidates comes to me via the courts, not from an employment agency. I have had assistants who were Yale graduates and others who were functionally illiterate. I have employed rapists, murderers, thieves and child molesters. A fellow who had stabbed his roommate over 100 times was also a most gifted computer programmer who wrote an excellent circulation program for the library. An outlaw biker who had spent his entire life in and out of prison decided to turn his life around and get an education. He earned both an associate's degree and a certificate in library technical services and, over several years, did an outstanding job of retrospectively converting our collection while teaching himself computer skills.

One of the first things the Department of Corrections did when I applied for this job was send me to school—at their own academy for new direct inmate contact personnel. There, they went over all of the DOC directives governing the operation of state prisons. I learned things like hostage negotiations, hostage survival skills, management of aggressive behavior, unarmed self defense, cell extraction, application of handcuffs, leg irons and belly chains. A whole host of things they never taught me in library school.

On the job, DOC provided an orientation program called "site sensitization" where I was assigned to be with experienced employees while they performed their duties. Some were excellent and shared many insights about prison culture; others couldn't be bothered with the new guy. This orientation lasted about a week, with time spent in every area in the prison: perimeter patrol, housing units, chow hall, mailroom, and even "Dep.'s Court," where infractions of institutional rules are judged and punishments assigned from the official code of penal discipline. It was during this time that I came to understand and appreciate that my new job was not going to be working with a bunch of knuckle dragging Neanderthals, but with professionals who operated by a written set of rules, in the interest of the safety of the people of Connecticut.

As noted above, most books for the state's prison libraries come to us as donations. To make a donation, contact Diana Pacetta-Ullmann, diana.pacetta-ullmann@po.state.ct.us or 860-692-7543, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield. And if you're looking for something a little different, there is a job opening for a full time librarian in Suffield at the MacDougall/Walker facility. ■

## LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

*Continued from page 8*

university is creating a platform to display scanned images accessed through a link on the library's website.

**Digitize** Technology inspires projects. When the town celebrated its tercentennial last year, Groton PL initiated the Groton History Online project to digitize photographs and postcards from its and the town historian's collections. "The digital collection has been available since July and has proved quite popular with over 20,000 hits to date," says Betty Anne Reiter, supervisor of adult services. The library received a small grant from the local Rotary Club to purchase extra space from the town's website provider to host the digital collection.

West Hartford PL's Friends provided funding to scan the library's early (non-copyrighted) atlases with street map plates of West Hartford. The library posted the images on its website and had copies made. "We use the archival print reproductions with customers in the library to save wear and tear on the atlases themselves," says reference librarian Martha Church.

Berlin-Peck Memorial Library has spent four years transferring information from its card file into a "people database"; a database of town businesses is next on the agenda. Preston PL is transcribing and indexing local Baptist Church records, which will be available on disk.

Cragin Memorial Library recently scanned a patron's collection of antique postcards depicting the Colchester area. The library plans on posting the digital images on its website. Guilford Free Library is investigating digitizing its art collection.

Frank Gagliardi, associate director of CCSU's Elihu Burritt Library, has seen significant results with digitized content and he encourages all libraries to place more local and special collections on the Internet to reach a larger audience. "I wrote a history of the Burritt Library for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had a student set it up as a website," he says. "It receives thousands of visits per year. The same thing for information about our Elihu Burritt collection."

**Get All Wrapped Up** The staff of the Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton knows that local history lessons can be learned and preserved through its 44-patch quilt depicting scenes of Shelton's industry and life. Made to celebrate the nation's bicentennial, the quilt project was co-sponsored by the Friends of Plumb Memorial, Shelton Bicentennial Commission, and the Valley Arts Council. Thirty years later, a

volunteer tracked down most of the women who had contributed to the quilt and created a record of this artifact.

Many libraries report collecting and preserving other artifacts, including city directories, obituaries, newspaper clippings, event programs, photograph albums, scrapbooks, publications from local organizations, letters, maps, glass negatives, CDs with digital images, diaries, ledgers, town records, theses, manuscripts, slides, microfilm, and historical society newsletters. Some also collect larger artifacts such as antique furniture, glass bottles, sculpture and other artwork, and textiles that have a strong connection to the town's history.

Preserving and making accessible the history of our communities is a way in which Connecticut libraries can distinguish themselves. And through attentiveness to its local history collection, every library has the opportunity to enhance its unique value to the community. ■

*Andrea Zimmermann is a reference librarian at Newtown's Cyrenius H. Booth Library, and an author and editor.*

## SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 5*

ALA Council in June 2004; she served on the Executive Board of BCALA from 2000-2003, and chaired the Affirmative Action Committee; she has been a member of the Library Administration and Management Association since 1992 and recently served on a LAMA Taskforce on Distance Education; she is a member of the Leadership Team for the ALA Office of Literacy and Outreach Services, serving on the Planning Committee that developed a strategic plan through 2010.

Locally, Jane serves on the New Haven Colony Historical Society Board of Directors. She is one of the founding members of BCALA-CT and one of the key organizers of the diversity conference they sponsored last fall at SCSU. She also notes that she is a Girl Scout parent volunteer.

Jane believes that today's library school students have the same high motivations as students in the past; that is, working with children, encouraging literacy, helping seniors find information, and similar altruistic goals. However, she notes that teaching methods must change in response to the demands of contemporary life, which simply do not permit some students to spend as many hours on campus as students have done in the past. A long-time advocate of distance education, Jane encourages her students to embrace technology and to look forward to the future of the library profession. "I believe that there will always be libraries," she says, "and that librarianship can offer an exciting and dynamic career," adding: "I like to remind my students that you don't have to have the same job all your life!"

*Carol Abatelli is head of collections & electronic services management at ECSU's Smith Library.*

### Copyright and Digital Materials

**April 29, 8 to 1, Cheshire High School**

**Featured Speaker:** Carrie Russell, ALA copyright specialist, authors a popular column in *School Library Journal* entitled "Carrie on Copyright." Information at [www.ctcema.org](http://www.ctcema.org).

### Reforma-Northeast Grant Available

Reforma Northeast will award up to \$500 to one library from the Northeast that provides services to a Spanish-speaking population. The grant is to be used for library materials or programs in Spanish. Deadline for applications is May 5, 2006. For more information see [www.reforma-northeast.org](http://www.reforma-northeast.org) or contact Monica Caruso at 860-695-6337 or [mcaruso@hplct.org](mailto:mcaruso@hplct.org).

### Mining the Web for Business Information and Tools

**April 6, 1 to 4, Russell Library, Middletown**

Barbie Keiser, well-known business information expert and consultant, will present a practical primer on using the Internet and the Web for business intelligence.

**Fee:** \$10 CLA members; \$20 non-members. **Register:** Michelle Foyt, 860-347-2520 or [mfoyt@russell.lioninc.org](mailto:mfoyt@russell.lioninc.org)

# Energize Your Mind, Relax Your Body

## CLA 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

May 8-10, Mountainside Resort, Wallingford

The program and registration form are available at [cla.uconn.edu/](http://cla.uconn.edu/)

### LOOKING AT BOOKS

*Continued from page 2*

mystery of Tyler Pearl's disappearance. However, it takes more than toughness for Jack to come to terms with his past. When we last see Jack, he is heading even further north, we hope to a new and happier life.

Frederick Busch helps us get to know a deceptively complex tough-guy hero by creatively weaving his hero's tragic past into his present challenge. He shows us that, sometimes, toughness, like beauty, is only skin-deep. Enjoy *North* or any one of Frederick Busch's 21 other novels. Sadly, Frederick Busch died in March. He had planned to be at our 2006 CLA Annual Conference to share his insights on writing and to answer our questions. We will miss him, but we can still read the stories he left for us to enjoy.

*Read more reviews by Vine Juliano at [cla.uconn.edu](http://cla.uconn.edu).*

*Looking at Books* celebrates a milestone this month. We have been sharing our observations on books with you for ten years. We have presented views on 104 titles in 90 columns during that period. When we started, most of the books we looked at featured the then new "Information Superhighway," as well as other books on technology. We added titles on management, communication, literature, and other topics, even an occasional novel. The goal throughout has been to find and discuss books that we thought would have special meaning to members of the library community, who, after all, see more than their share of book reviews. One of the pleasures of writing the column is hearing from colleagues who have enjoyed reading it. Another is working with great people, like our guest reviewers, who have kept *Looking at Books* lively and fresh, and *Connecticut Libraries* editor David Kapp, who encouraged the very first column and has been supportive ever since. *Vince Juliano*

### TREASURES

*Continued from page 9*

James Hammond Trumbull, and educator Henry Barnard. The library also houses the Trinity College Archives.

Perhaps the Watkinson Library is best known for its ornithology collection. Considered one of the best in the country, the Ostrom and Alice Talcott Enders Collection has over 7,000 monographs dating from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century to the present, and includes major ornithology periodicals, manuscripts, papers, and a small group of original paintings created for book illustration. With a generous endowment specifically for the Enders Collection, the Watkinson Library continues to build in this subject area. The Gurdon Russell Natural History Collection complements the Enders Collection and includes John J. Audubon's stunning elephant folio, *Birds of America*.

Located on the A-floor of the Trinity College Library, the Watkinson Library is open 9:30 to 4:30, Monday thru Friday, and occasional Saturdays (call the library for details). Researchers register as library readers and may consult reference staff for assistance. The library has open house programs during the year and both exhibitions and open houses are free and open to the public. Be sure to pick up the excellent exhibition catalog when you come for a visit. For more information on the Watkinson Library, visit their website at [www.trincoll.edu/depts/library/watkinson/](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/library/watkinson/) or call 860-297-2268.

*Tom Newman is the assistant director of the Middletown Library Service Center.*

### OBVERSION

*Continued from page 3*

and showed the folically challenged actor digging out some sodden bank notes that disintegrated on touch. Or could that have been the remains of a rare copy of the aptly named *Futility*, the poignant last remnant of the library on the Ship of Dreams?

Connecticut Libraries

Volume 48, Number 4

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