

# CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of  
the Connecticut  
Library  
Association

## Award Winning Public Library Service

Meet the winners of the 2007 Connecticut Excellence in Public Library Service Award—Cheshire Library and Hebron’s Douglas Library—at the CLA Conference on Tuesday, April 17. Discover how teens are bringing new vitality to their local libraries and learn how their innovative programs might be adapted for your library.

## Cheshire Library’s Podcast: A “Teen-Driven Cultural Magazine”

by Sarah Kline Morgan

Cheshire Public Library’s podcast is a *teen-driven cultural magazine*. Our episodes sound like those on a radio show—something you might hear if teens controlled National Public Radio. Each show has multiple segments showcasing a variety of content, including music, comedy, poetry, commentary, and storytelling.

On a recent episode, for example, Jonathan Dandrow, a senior at Cheshire High School and the podcast’s regular host, introduced the show. Colin Li, also a senior and the podcast’s general manager, followed up with the second installment of

his epic journey to White Castle, complete with mood music and sound effects. Next, members of the Teen Book Board, another library program, shared their reviews of some recent reads and announced the results of a library poll on the best books of 2006. This literary segment was followed by juniors Ravi



Ravi Pamar (left) and Mike Musto, members of the Cheshire Library Podcast Editorial Board, engage in a bit of banter on the library’s podcast.

Parmar and Mike Musto, bantering about amusing tidbits drawn from the news. Jonathan provided short transitions between segments and

then, at the close of the show, gave credit to all involved in the episode’s production—to those whose voices appeared on the show, as well as to the editorial board, a group of teens providing oversight of the project from episode to episode.

Prior to the release of our first program, in February 2006, I had no audio production experience and only a very hazy idea of what was necessary to set up the podcast feed. Some early publicity led to a call from a reporter at *School Library Journal*, who had quite a few questions about the technical aspects of podcasting. I was mortified to admit my ignorance; I had to tell her that I’d call back, that I wasn’t really sure of the answers yet.

To set up the feed, I followed directions I found on an online podcasting tutorial. Working with Jonathan, Colin, and other

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[www.ctlibraryassociation.org](http://www.ctlibraryassociation.org)

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# OBVERSION You're a Librarian. Stand Up Straight!

*Ster-e-o-type/ n Oversimplified Conception. An oversimplified standardized image or idea held by one person or group of another.*

By beginning this piece with a definition, I have wittingly and with forethought given truth to the stereotype of librarian as researcher, explicator and know-it-all wiseass. It's like I'm channeling Pirandello. See? Once again, a literary reference used purely and solely to demonstrate erudition. Further reinforcing the stereotype.

I thought I'd read/heard/seen it all. I thought I was familiar with every librarian cliché and stereotype, but a couple weeks ago in *The New York Times*, I found that there is, contrary to biblical pronouncement, "something new under the sun." In an article about young Indian women gravitating to careers as "air hostesses," the reporter wrote "On this afternoon, her hair pulled back in a French roll, *sitting as straight as a librarian...*"

I've heard about the bun, the tennis shoes, the glasses, the clothing, the shushing, the anal attitudes, and many others I've forgotten. But standing up straight, as the defining characteristic of librarians? I've now taken to watching



Les Kozzerowitz

my colleagues' postures. I advise you to do the same; there might be something to this.

I was so intrigued by this new attribution that I took the opportunity to express my bemusement to the editors of the *Times*. I'm a lifelong reader of the *NYT* (my father used to bring it home every day, when it cost a nickel) and had long considered it my bible. I've subscribed for 38 years, and have often had my hackles raised, heart touched, funny bone struck and grits fried. But I've

never been moved to write a letter to the editor. It seemed at once narcissistic and futile, not unlike writing this column, but write I did.

In my letter, I expressed admiration for the reporter's creativity in inventing this heretofore unheard of (by me) librarian stereotype. I also thanked them for the ammunition; my wife is forever admonishing me for not standing up straight. I'm now able to tell her "I *am* standing up straight. I'm a librarian!"

Well, it didn't get published. I didn't get my fifteen minutes of fame. First, I was as pissed as an op-ed writer. Then I got as self-righteous as a managing

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## BOOKS LOOKING AT

### Remembering Hypatia

by Brian Trent (IUniverse, Inc., 2005)

She is brilliant. She is beautiful. In the classroom, she can challenge the minds of fifth century Rome's greatest scholars. At dinner parties, she can charm Rome's most powerful and influential men. Not surprisingly, she inspires both admiration and resentment.

She is Hypatia (355? – 415 A.D.), librarian of the Great Library of Alexandria, Egypt, one of the ancient world's greatest minds in one of classical antiquity's greatest institutions. She organizes and preserves the wisdom of the ages, and transmits it to the next generation of scholars. While the role of librarian has changed radically since Hypatia's time, modern librarians will find much to admire in the life of this ancient colleague.

Hypatia endured harassment as a young scholar because the Roman Empire of the fourth and fifth centuries did not readily tolerate women who failed to live the roles that society had ordained for them. Women were considered intellectually inferior—equipped for carnal amusement, procreation, and running households, not for scholarship or leadership. Against all odds, Hypatia earned the respected title, "Philosopher," and educated a generation of Roman leaders.

The Great Library was, of course, not a public library. The general populace was not permitted access to its treasures. But not content to restrict her teaching solely to the privileged, Hypatia engaged in "outreach." Convinced that everyone could benefit from education, Hypatia often took her lectures out of the library and presented them directly to interested Alexandrians of every social class.



Perhaps the brilliant and beautiful Hypatia looked like this?

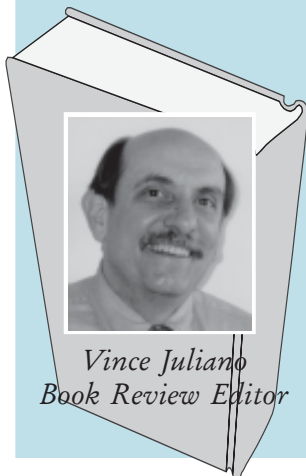
From: *The Mysterious Fayum Portraits*, by Euphrosyne Doxiades

Hypatia championed intellectual freedom. She encouraged her students to pursue knowledge in all subject areas, urging them to consider no topic out-of-bounds. She cautioned them against accepting the easy, unproven answers often dispensed by "authorities." She schooled them in what we, today, recognize as the scientific method. Hypatia had studied the works of the pagan philosophers and thinkers of pre-Christian Greece and Rome for her entire life. She saw the Great Library, which housed their writings, as a treasure trove of information and ideas, a bonanza of resources to be mined for the education of her students.

The Roman Empire of this period was in gradual decay, threatened by a host of enemies. Administration had been divided into western and eastern districts to provide for better defense. Alexandria fell

under the authority of Constantinople, the eastern capital. Emperor Constantine, who renamed the former city of Byzantium after himself in 330, also established Christianity as the empire's official religion. The Christian Church, whose believers had suffered relentless persecution in Rome only a century ago, had become a power to be reckoned with by Hypatia's day. In 391, at the prompting of Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria, Emperor Theodosius outlawed all other religions. The intolerant patriarch encouraged fanatical Christians to destroy the temples of Egypt's native gods. In 411, Theophilus was succeeded as Patriarch of Alexandria by his nephew Cyril,

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Vince Juliano  
Book Review Editor

## LOOKING AT BOOKS

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a man as devoted to wiping out heresy as his uncle. Cyril bitterly resented anyone or anything that stood in his way.

*Remembering Hypatia* is a novel that dramatizes the personalities and events of Alexandria in 414 AD. Most of what we learn we see through the eyes of Thasos, a 17-year-old glassmaker, who lives with his widowed mother. His long-dead father, Admetus, however, had worked in the Great Library. Because of Admetus' lifetime of service to the Library, Thasos is eligible to study there. When we first meet Thasos, he is a charming teenager, who appears more interested in romantic conquest than in philosophy. Predictably, he falls under the spell of Hypatia's beauty, yet gradually learns to respect her as a teacher, scholar, and leader dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge.

We are introduced to Orestes, governor of Egypt, a man of energy and intelligence who is in love with Hypatia, but is married to Marina. Lady Marina is, in many ways, the perfect political wife for a Roman official. She is intelligent, though poorly educated. She is attractive, charming, ambitious, and wise in the ways of society. Marina is utterly bored with her handsome, workaholic husband—and jealous of Hypatia.

Still, it takes more than jealousy and resentment to bring about Hypatia's downfall. It requires a polarizing incident, one that pits Hypatia, the library, Orestes, and the multi-cultural traditions of cosmopolitan Alexandria against a tidal wave of intolerance and fanaticism unleashed by Patriarch Cyril.

Author Brian Trent, who has entertained audiences in area libraries, has seasoned ancient history with a pinch of romance. His novel celebrates an exceptional woman and teaches modern audiences a lesson from antiquity about the destructive consequences of intolerance. Hypatia would be proud to be so remembered, proud, too, of modern successors who preserve knowledge and cherish the freedom of others to pursue it. As we celebrate National Library Week and hold CLA's Annual Conference, let us also remember Hypatia.

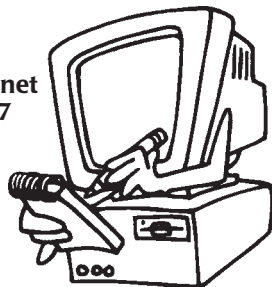
Read more reviews by Vince Juliano at [www.ctlibraryassociation.org](http://www.ctlibraryassociation.org).

**Editor's Note** If Vince's review has made you curious to learn more about Hypatia, go to <http://pages.prodigy.net/fljustice/hypatia.html> for an intriguing discussion of her life and times.

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

**David Kapp, Editor**  
**davidkapp@comcast.net**  
**Phone: (860)647-0697**  
**4 Llynwood Drive**  
**Bolton, CT 06043**

*Deadline:* Second Friday of the month prior to publication.



Barbara Bailey

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### What Your Dues Do

**I have been a Connecticut librarian for over 30 years and a member of the Connecticut Library Association for the same period of time.** I have always considered it my professional responsibility to support my state and national professional associations. As a new librarian, the CLA Job Line (at the time, in print and via telephone) was very important to me, as were the opportunities offered for professional development. And registration fees for conferences and workshops were always cheaper for members than for non-members.

While a reference librarian, I always looked forward to the fall workshop sponsored by the Reference and Adult Services Section, usually held at the Yankee Silversmith in Wallingford. These sessions typically featured a panel of speakers on hot reference topics (and were always accompanied by a luncheon that included Yankee Silversmith's famous cream puffs).

As a library director, I still keep an eye out for programs and workshops that will benefit my staff or me. In hiring, I observe CLA's Minimum Salary Guidelines closely, since I believe these guidelines help keep salaries in Connecticut competitive. I am now tuned into the CLA legislative agenda, having seen how the association's legislative efforts have benefited library services in my community and across the state.

Membership dues account for approximately 30% of the association's income, second only to the revenue generated by the annual conference, which is projected at about 60% of our income. In dollars, these percentages represent \$56,000 and \$112,100 respectively. The remaining 10% of CLA's income is derived from miscellaneous sources. The total projected income for FY 2006/2007 is \$191,850.

Members may be unaware that approximately 8% of the budget supports our lobbying efforts. Consequently, 8% of your CLA membership dues is not deductible for federal tax purposes. In 2006, through lobbying efforts, CLA was able to get an additional \$300,000 toward full Connecticut reimbursement, and we hope to increase funding still more for this invaluable program during the current legislative session.

Association expenditures for FY 2006/2007 are projected to be \$200,440. Our biggest expenditure is the annual conference, budgeted for \$91,590. You have to spend money to make money. This is followed by \$48,500 in management fees paid to the Connecticut Library Consortium for administrative support, and *Connecticut Libraries* at \$20,000.

The margin between income and expenditures is narrow. I'm amazed that the organization can do all that it does, and as well as it does it, on a budget that is cyclical. Revenue is generated at the beginning of the fiscal year from membership dues, and at the end of the year, after all conference bills have been paid and a profit has been realized.

The difference between income and expenditures this year is just \$8,590, so it should come as no surprise that the association needs to find ways to increase revenue. We have some investments; however, we do not want to get into the habit of dipping into those on a regular basis to cover operating expenses.

A membership dues increase is one of our options and a proposal to do that will be considered at the annual business meeting on April 18 at 8:00 a.m. during the annual conference in Hartford. The last dues increase occurred in FY 2000/2001. The revised dues schedule was printed in the March 2007 issue of *Connecticut Libraries* and you can also find it at [www.ctlibraryassociation.org](http://www.ctlibraryassociation.org). Please review it and plan to attend the business meeting, when candidates for CLA offices will also be introduced and voted upon. Perhaps if you are lucky, you'll win the fabulous basket of goodies being prepared by conference co-chairs Karen Ronald and Cynde Lahey as a door prize. I look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Barbara at [bailey@glasct.org](mailto:bailey@glasct.org).

# HIGHLIGHTS

**President** Barbara Bailey reported that the CT Book Party fundraiser to assist libraries affected by Katrina will kick off at the CLA Conference on April 17 with a mini golf tournament and jazz concert. Libraries can participate in the effort by making a donation, setting up a "Katrina Corner" at book sales, and by distributing promotional materials. She also announced the nominations for CLA executive officers for 2007/08: Kathy Leeds, vice president/president elect; Alison Wang, secretary/treasurer; Tracy Ralston, Region 1 representative; Cynde Lahey, Region 4 representative; Bridget Quinn-Carey, Region 5 representative; and Mary Etter, NELA representative. (See page 6 for more.)

**Treasurer** Jan Fisher noted that the annual audit is complete and that the Finance Committee will meet with investment counselors from Schwab.

**Vice President** Carl Antonucci is working on final details for the Shakespeare & All That Jazz benefit event for the CT Book Party.

**Region 6** Theresa Conley reported that Old Lyme has launched a campaign to raise \$1 million. Joanna Case, director of Mystic & Noank Library is retiring in May.

**Region 2** Betsy Bray announced that Simsbury Library is moving to a temporary location during renovations. Sue Smayda is the new director of Southington Library and Museum. One Book, Four Towns (Newington, Berlin, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield) will read *Surrogate Thief* by Archer Mayor.

**Public Libraries** Mary Engels reported that the 2007 CT Excellence in Public Library Service Award is going to Hebron's Douglas Library for its Teen Advisory Board and to Cheshire PL for its Teen Podcast Program

**NELA** Mary Etter noted that NELA is now publishing its newsletter online and conducting online conference registration.

**Membership** Pam Najarian reported that membership totals 910 as of February 28. A new membership brochure is in production.

**Legislative** Peter Ciparelli highlighted information from the governor's budget. The Legislative Potluck Supper is scheduled for March 21. Jay Johnston, ALA counselor for CLA, is assembling a group to go to Washington DC for the ALA National Legislative Days. Barbara Bailey testified in support of the CLA legislative agenda at an Appropriations Committee hearing on February 22.

**Editorial** Carol Abatelli announced that the committee has recommended revisions to the website and these will be underway shortly.

**CSL** Mary Engels distributed a report highlighting the LSTA Blog for input on the 5-Year Plan. CSL is collaborating with Libraries for the Future for Equal Access in Connecticut, a program to help librarians build outreach and community programming skills. Linda Williams has created a new list of children's book publishers on web junction.

**Conference 2007** Karen Ronald said that the final conference program will be on the CLA website shortly. The committee is seeking sponsors for the CLA reception and mini golf tournament.

**CEMA** Gayle Bogel reported that a workshop on collaboration between school librarians and teachers will be held April 30 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell.

**ALA** Jay Johnston discussed an ALA proposal to increase membership by offering a "share package" with local chapters. The proposal will be presented at the CLA conference.

**ACLB** Suzanne Lee announced that ACLB would contribute \$100 to the Legislative Potluck Supper. The ACLB website will be back online after a brief interruption of service.

**CLC** Chris Bradley reported that she met with Senator Handley, co-chair of the Appropriations Committee, to discuss the legislative agenda, including \$150,000 for InfoAnytime, \$1 million for iConn, and \$500,000 for Connecticut. Effective July 1, Pam Najarian and Kirsten Kilbourn will assume the responsibilities of conference consultant, headquartered at the CLA Middletown office. Chris thanked Mary Ann Rupert for her many years of service as conference consultant for CLA.

## OBVERSION

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editor. Now, I'm just as slumped over, as world-weary, and as cynical as a reporter.

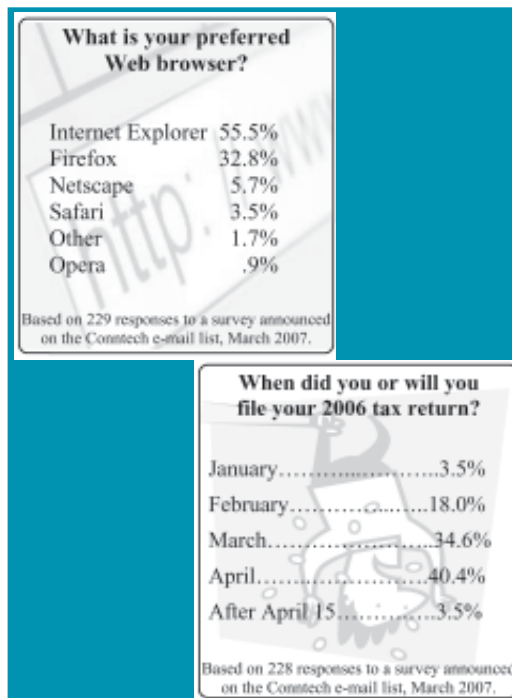
This whole exercise got me to thinking about stereotypes and stereotypical behavior. Most professions have a stereotype: the sleazy lawyer, the dishonest politician, the dishonest used car salesman, the techno-geek, the absent-minded professor, the Birkenstock-wearing eco-terrorist. And take your pick when it comes to "us."

And I thought: there's a natural, if subconscious instinct in response to these perceived behaviors. We either embrace them or rebel against them. I've chosen the latter course. I'll be honest enough to admit that I consider it a compliment when someone says to me: "You don't *look* or *act* like a librarian." By that I take them to mean: "You're too handsome, too well dressed, too suave, too witty, too articulate, too urbane and *way* too cool to be a librarian." Now, thanks to *The New York Times*, I know what they really mean is: "You don't stand up straight enough to be a librarian."

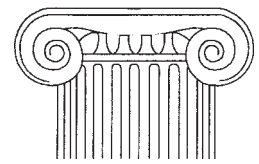
And I think many of us have the same reaction. What can we do to break this endless and destructive cycle of negative or meaningless stereotypes? I for one, intend to do my part. Remember this: every time I get on my motorcycle, swing a golf club, pretend not have read the latest books, jump out of a plane, or kick a walker out from under an old lady, I'm striking a blow for you. Every time I shuffle around, refuse a drink or wear high heels, I do it for you. Yes, for you, my brothers and sisters in this most noble, oft-maligned profession. Can I get an "Amen"?

So, do what you can, if you're so inclined. Help break the cycle: Put on lots of makeup, wear high heels to work, put on a frilly dress. And you ladies do your part too!

*Les Kozerowitz wages his Sisyphian campaign against librarian stereotypes from the director's office at the Norwalk PL. Contact him at [lkozerowitz@norwalkpubliclibrary.org](mailto:lkozerowitz@norwalkpubliclibrary.org).*



# HERITAGE



**After two years of construction and renovation, Bristol Public Library** celebrated its grand reopening on June 22, 2006, attended by state and local officials, library staff and board members, and over 300 patrons. The consensus from those in attendance was that the Bristol Public library is spectacular. Visitors continue to comment almost daily about the wonderful windows, the dramatic lighting and the spaciousness of the building.

The library, located in the historic Federal Hill area, was first built in 1906/1907. Over the years, a children's wing and an auditorium were added and several renovations occurred in an effort to create more space. But by the mid 1990s, it was quite evident that the library needed more and better space for the collections, programs, new technology, and parking.

Bristol residents are proud of their historic buildings and have strong attachments to them. To inform the community of our needs and to solicit support for a library project, several surveys were conducted to discover what the community hoped to see in a new library and where they would like it to be located. They responded that if at all possible, they wanted the library to be expanded on its present site. That was the challenge given to the architects, Tuthill & Wells, when they were selected to conduct a feasibility study in 2000.

Peter Wells, project architect, designed an addition that blends architecturally with the historic building. The brick façade and the windows on the front of the building mirror those of the original structure. The original entrance has been maintained, but a new entrance for patrons with disabilities, flanked by matching concrete lions, was created from the new parking lot. One of the most significant improvements has been increased parking—from 32 spaces to 92 spaces.

The historic building has been renovated but retains most of its original design and features. Three beautiful fireplaces, one of which was covered by a bookcase for 40 years, are focal points in the public areas. The main floor features an expansive lobby with ample space to display announcements of library activities. The circulation desk is adjacent to the lobby, with a work area for staff, and a comfortable sitting area where patrons can read or converse is nearby. New books, large print books, and periodicals are also displayed in this area, which is furnished with comfortable chairs and tables that invite people to sit, browse and read.

The second floor previously had very little light; now, a large skylight makes it bright and sunny. This floor houses the adult fiction collection with a sitting area tucked up under the eaves—to the delight of library patrons. Another feature that pleases visitors is the original beams, which have been left exposed and in their natural state. The bottom floor of the historic building houses the administrative offices and the Friends bookstore.

The new addition is twice as large as the original building. Here, the main floor houses a cheerful and greatly expanded children's department, where the preschool section is one of the busiest and most popular areas. A comfortable sitting area

provides a place for parents to read with their children, watch them perform in the puppet theater, or play with educational toys. There are also computers with software for preschoolers and a section where little hands can enjoy arts and crafts. Adjacent program rooms have enabled the library to expand the number of story hours and special programs.

School age children enjoy their own study and computer areas, as well as an audiovisual area. Next door, the adult A/V area provides access to an expanded collection of books and music on CD, and DVDs.

The top floor contains the information department with a variety of seating that facilitates work in small groups or independently. Quiet study rooms provide places for one or two people to work together in private and without noise. Twelve computers are available for adults to use for research and email purposes. The Bristol History Room, which houses local historical materials in a climate-controlled environment, is a part of the information department.

The building planners included both a young adult department and a computer lab in the new library, and these areas are adjacent to the information department. Young people are enjoying their special area, where they can find printed and recorded books, DVDs, and periodicals appropriate to their reading levels and interests. In addition, there are board games, puzzles, and arts and crafts activities for their use.

The computer lab, with 19 workstations, opened in January 2007 and has already become very popular, with waiting lists for the classes being offered. The public is pleased and excited that they can learn about computers and software applications in a pleasant environment, free of charge. Space for the non-fiction collection occupies approximately one third of the top floor, and people are amazed to see how much space is now available for future collection growth.

Three meeting rooms that can be converted into one large room with a seating capacity of 300 occupy the bottom level of the addition. One room is reserved for library programs; community groups, organizations, and agencies use the other two. These rooms are very popular and have brought another segment of the community into the library.

The vision of those involved with the expansion and renovation of the Bristol Public Library was that it would become the hub of the community. That vision is on its way to being achieved: the collection is circulating at a higher rate, the number of reference inquiries has skyrocketed, and library programs are being well attended. Numbers are one indication of the library's success, but positive comments from patrons may be an even better indicator of its

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## Bristol Public Library

*by Francine Petosa*

### Library Director

Francine Petosa

### Architect

Tuthill & Wells

### General Contractor

W.J. Mountford

### Opening Day

June 22, 2006

### Size

55,947 square feet

### Cost

\$11.8 million

### Library Construction Grant

\$500,000

### Capacity

157,575 items

### Reader Seats

330

### Public Computers

50

### Meeting Rooms (3)

300 seats

### Population

60,994



# Candidates For CLA Offices

The CLA Executive Board is pleased to present the following candidates for association offices, 2007/2008. Plan to meet them at the annual business meeting during the CLA Conference in Hartford, on Wednesday, April 18, at 8:00 a.m., when an election will be conducted. Each nominee has been asked to respond to one of several questions posed by the Nominations Committee.

## VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

### Kathy Leeds

Director, Wilton Library Association

### Education

BA, Duke University; MLS, Syracuse University

### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, PLA, ALA, FLAG



**It is often said that libraries can transform lives. Please give an example from your experience.**

We live in a fairly homogenous community here in Wilton. "Multiculturalism" can seem irrelevant and the need to assimilate immigrant populations exotic to those who merely skim the surface of our suburban neighborhood. Within the past couple of years, however, we've learned more about diversity close to home, and our library has been a catalyst in the celebration of other cultures, transforming lives of many along the way.

Two years ago, in the wake of a bias incident in town, we established an international book group, blending the love of literature with the desire to learn about other cultures in our midst. The effect has been magical. Women from Poland, Japan, Iran, Egypt, India, China, Korea, Sweden, Brazil and Wales have led discussions on books about their countries of origin, sparking informed and fascinating conversations about the authors and their works, and also about the cultures these stories reflect. The series has proven very popular, with true friendships springing out of the mutual respect and awareness engendered in this unique setting.

As more and more people expressed interest in life beyond our borders, those of us planning library programs realized that the working population in town also shows diversity that is totally unserved and unrecognized by our programs and collections. We immediately launched ESOL classes with the great help of Literacy Volunteers of America, purchased Rosetta Stone ESOL online for our students, and are about to launch a conversation series for all those from other cultures and countries who are seeking to learn our language and culture. Classes were filled immediately and many other residents are on waiting lists.

It is no overstatement to say that the international book discussions transformed the women who participated in them. Libraries will always be about bringing individuals and ideas together in an environment that invites understanding and respect and that encourages change and growth. We believe that our English learners will find their lives changed much for the better as they become more confident with their

newest language. Libraries have traditionally served immigrant populations in their quest to assimilate.

It is our distinct privilege and pleasure to inspire and educate those who walk through our library's doors, but perhaps never so much as when we can serve and learn from those with backgrounds different from our own, bringing our community together—and transforming it—in such a significant way.

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Alison Wang

Head of Technical Services,  
Naugatuck Valley Community College

### Education

BA, Southern Connecticut State University;  
MLS, Southern Connecticut State University;  
Dance Certificate, Naugatuck Valley Community College

### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, CLC Board 2005-, NELA, ALA  
CLA Technical Services Section Chair, 2004-2005. LIBRIS Program Manager for CT Community College Libraries, 2007-2009. NE Library Leadership Symposium, 2005.

**How would you respond to the contention that the Internet has made libraries obsolete?**

People invented "books" of one sort or another a long time ago to record their activities, to deliver information and pleasure, and to pass along their knowledge to future generations. And books have had a powerful impact on human development everywhere in the world. Today, technology allows us to present books in new and different formats, particularly as digital files accessible on the Internet. But as helpful as that may be for some purposes, the Internet has not made printed books obsolete. And if printed books are not going out of style, then libraries, the resource center for printed and recorded books and other materials, are not obsolete.

It would be great to have all information in digitized format and reachable via the Internet, but that isn't likely to happen for a very long time—if ever. The Internet doesn't contain all scholarly books and journals; most are still published only in print. Those that are online are available mostly by subscriptions paid for by the library and accessible only through the library's website. Libraries and the Internet will continue to co-exist for as far into the future as we can see.

The Internet has its downside, often delivering too many,

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## CANDIDATES FOR CLA OFFICES 2007/2008

*Continued from page 6*

or irrelevant, or inappropriate search results. Librarians train users to employ appropriate search terms, to analyze search results, and find useful information. Tutor.com, for example, is a good illustration of librarians contributing their skills via the Internet to help people find the information they need.

And let's not forget about issues of cost and copyright. Publishers are moving cautiously to provide free access to their products on the Internet; they need to protect their revenue and copyrights. You may find an e-book on the Internet, but it won't be free and it won't be much fun to read on a screen. The Internet is wonderful, but it isn't a substitute for full-services libraries. People will always want to curl up with a good book—at least for the foreseeable future.

### REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE

#### Tracy Ralston

Director, Traurig Library, Post University

#### Education

BA, University of Connecticut; MLS, Southern Connecticut State University



#### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, ALA, ACRL, NEC, CCALD, CT Dept. of Higher Education Library Task Force, 2004-05 CLA Region 5 Representative, 2005-. ALA CT Library Representative for NCES, 2002-, CLS Committee, 2001-2002. CCALD Chair 2000. ACRL Participant New Director Mentorship program, 2000.

#### It is often said that libraries can transform lives. Please give an example from your experience.

I grew up an only child from a broken marriage in New Rochelle, NY. My parents divorced when I was five, and my father moved to Canada. I saw him only on infrequent holidays and for two weeks during the summer. I developed a special bond with my maternal grandparents, especially my Papa, who was an excellent male role model. He was a retired lieutenant in the fire department, an officer in the Elks Club, and a decent, family-oriented man.

Papa was also a voracious reader. In his spare time, he frequented the New Rochelle Public Library, and he introduced me to that library at an early age. We went to the NRPL at least three times a week. Every librarian knew Papa by name. I remember that they put aside books on subjects he would be interested in, particularly history volumes. I learned how helpful and knowledgeable a librarian could be. I developed much respect for them and considered a career in librarianship even back then. When I went to the University of Connecticut for my undergraduate studies, I spent all four years as a work-study library assistant. This furthered my love for the library, and after graduation it compelled me to seriously consider a career as a librarian.

My Papa instilled in me the power of the written word. He taught me that reading not only expands one's knowledge but is also a very enjoyable pastime, helping one to relax and

decompress after a trying day. I've never forgotten these important lessons, and the library was the perfect place to reinforce them. I became a librarian in part because I wanted to show patrons how thought-provoking and important reading can be. Continuing this tradition, a few students here at Post University have gone on to become librarians after working in the Traurig Library; one of our senior assistants just been accepted into the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Libraries can be the catalyst to transform lives, as they did mine and countless others.

### REGION 4 REPRESENTATIVE

#### Cynde Bloom Lahey

Assistant Director, New Canaan Library

#### Education

BA, Charter Oak College; MLS, Southern Connecticut State University



#### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, ALA, AFP, FLAG  
CLA Conference Co-Chair, 2007. FLAG Treasurer.

#### How would you respond to the contention that the Internet has made libraries obsolete?

Libraries obsolete? No, I don't think so. The unfortunate perception of the library as outmoded or archaic is almost laughable. Libraries are constantly changing and ever-evolving in order to balance technology and traditional resources. Libraries have come a long way in tackling stereotypes and misconceptions.

In the early 1990's a well-known, recently discredited corporate CEO sat in a meeting at our library and told us that within five years, we would need only a small booth-like building where patrons could request that books, A/V materials, and information be downloaded onto small credit card sized discs. Well, he was wrong.

Sure, you can download digital files, but libraries are far from obsolete because they are more than collections of printed and recorded materials. They are the cultural centers of their communities, in whatever type of community they serve—public, corporate, school or academic.

The Internet has enabled libraries to better market our services. We can reach into homes and offices 24/7 with links, subscription databases, and research assistance. We can promote activities and programs beyond our walls with video-streaming and interactive book discussions. Librarians teach patrons to use the Internet, both one-on-one and in classroom situations, and help students evaluate the nearly infinite number of responses they receive to a given request. Librarians work with book groups and individuals, advising them on selecting interesting, stimulating books to read and discuss. They connect readers with an author's biographical information and critical material on a given title.

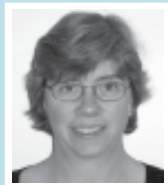
The Internet is a powerful, compelling and influential tool, but the library is a destination. More importantly, the face-to-

*Continued on page 11*



# TECHNOLOGY

## Bandwidth: There's Never Enough!



Sylvia Boyd

*Bandwidth is an increasingly important issue for libraries as Web 2.0 tools make the Internet more interactive.*

Speaking at CLC's Trendspotting II symposium in October, Michael Miller, chief content officer for Ziff Davis Media, emphasized the need for additional Internet bandwidth in libraries. Connection speeds in South Korea are faster than those in the U.S., he said, noting that 45% of U.S. libraries consider their connection speeds too slow to meet demand. This struck home with me as I think my library is among that 45%.

Bandwidth refers to data transmission rates. It can be expressed in kilobytes per second (56K modems), megabytes per second (1.44 MB on a T1 frame relay line) or gigabytes per second (fiber). Today's Internet includes streaming video, podcasts, MP3 downloads and e-mail, all of which represent data waiting to be transmitted to your library's computers. In addition to Internet traffic libraries have automation system and server data moving back and forth and using bandwidth.

A useful chart at [www.optimum.com/online/speed.jsp](http://www.optimum.com/online/speed.jsp) compares the speed at which certain tasks can be performed depending on the bandwidth used: a song takes 12.5 minutes to download with a 56K modem but only 13 seconds on a 3 Mbps DSL line; a 750 MB movie takes 35 minutes to download on a DSL line, just seven minutes via cable, but 31 hours with a 56K modem!

There are tests available to measure the speed of your Internet connections. I like the one at [www.speakeasy.net/speedtest](http://www.speakeasy.net/speedtest), but there are a lot of choices out there. AT&T has one at [help.sbcglobal.net/dsl/speedtest](http://help.sbcglobal.net/dsl/speedtest), and another popular test can be found at [toast.net](http://toast.net).

Other factors that affect the pace of data transmission include the speed of your library's internal network and its computers. Internal network speed depends on network cards and hubs or switches. These are generally 100 MB; however, if you have a few leftover 10MB hubs you might want to replace them with 100 MB switches.

Assuming you have 100 MB switches and fast computers, how do you get the Internet bandwidth you need? There are lots of choices: DSL (digital subscriber lines), frame relay, fiber, and cable. Many Connecticut libraries depend on the Connecticut Education Network (CEN), which provides Internet access to each principal public library at DSL or T1 speeds. Some larger libraries received fiber connections. The state applies for e-rate funds for this telecommunications structure and each library signs a letter of agency with CEN. Internet access via CEN is provided at no cost to your library.

Another source of free or nearly free Internet access is the Cablevision Power to Learn program for schools and public libraries. Their starter package includes Internet service for 2-25 workstations. Each school or library is eligible for one starter network package; additional bandwidth is available for a fee. For more information, see [www.powertolearn.com/products\\_and\\_services/index.shtml](http://www.powertolearn.com/products_and_services/index.shtml).

You might also consider running a cable network and a CEN network and splitting your public and staff networks. This would provide some redundancy so that if the CEN network is

down you could use the Cablevision Internet connection or vice versa. Call your cable company to find out what is available.

There are still other options for Internet access. Digital subscriber lines (DSL) provided by telecomm companies transmit data over analog telephone lines. These lines come in a number of bandwidth choices, and bandwidth for uploads is not always the same as bandwidth for downloads. For example, DSL lines at the Bridgeport Public Library are 1.5 to 3.0 Mbs down and 384 to 768Kbs up. The upload speed can be problematic when transferring large data files. Luckily, most libraries do more downloading than uploading. However, if patrons are uploading to YouTube and the like they might appreciate more bandwidth.

Another factor to consider with DSL is your proximity to the telephone company's central office. That distance can dictate the amount of bandwidth available. A library could buy multiple DSL lines and use different telephone lines to obtain adequate bandwidth.

Frame Relay T1 lines are digital lines that send data in frames. They have the same upload and download speeds and come with a committed information rate (CIR). The telecomm company may guarantee a rate of only 512K. You can sometimes burst to T1 speeds but the 512K transmission rate is all that is guaranteed. CIR is often only half of the bandwidth of the line. Any data sent over the line in excess of the CIR is eligible for discard. A library may be able to get a guaranteed information rate equal to the total bandwidth of the line by paying an extra fee. Cable and DSL lines are gradually replacing frame relay lines, but if these are not available in your area, frame relay lines may be an option.

Fiber is the latest and greatest bandwidth option but it is expensive to install and monthly charges are high. A recent quote I received for a scalable product from 10 MB to 1 GB of bandwidth was \$1250 per month for a 5-year contract. Even with a high e-rate discount this may be too costly for many libraries. However, looking toward the future and the increasing demands of our patrons, fiber may be the way to go.

Many patrons use our library's computers because the Internet connection is faster than their home connection. Others ask about Internet service providers. Here are some local offers as of February 2007 that you may want to pass on to your patrons.

- Optimum Online (Cablevision) offers 15 Mbs for \$29.95/month for six months. For an extra fee you can upgrade to the Optimum Online Boost premium tier, which offers 30 Mbs downstream and 5 Mbs upstream. A cable television line and cable modem are required.
- AT&T has a DSL option for \$24.99 for 3Mbs and \$34.99 for 6 Mbs. A telephone line and DSL modem are required.
- AOL (America Online) costs \$9.95/month for dial-up access (56K modem). Netzero charges \$9.95/month for dial-up access and unlimited use; ten hours/month of Internet access are available for free.

*Continued on page 11*

**Like many of those profiled in "Before I Became a Librarian"** in the February issue of *Connecticut Libraries*, Gabriella Kaye didn't grow up wanting to become a librarian. She did, however, harbor happy memories of helping her sixth grade teacher set up a library for her elementary school in Morris, an experience that would eventually lead her into the library profession.

Following her graduation from Swarthmore College with a BA in history, Gabriella taught phonics to boys at the McTernan School in Waterbury. In 1972, when McTernan merged with St. Margaret's girls' school, Gabriella met her future husband, Ted Kaye, a teacher at St. Margaret's. "Our schools' merger led to our personal merger," she laughs.

After their wedding, the Kayes moved to Stonington, where Ted taught at Pine Point School. Gabriella found employment at Mystic Seaport, working full-time until the birth of their daughter, Anna, and part-time after that. Around the time that Anna turned nine, Gabriella began to think about returning to full-time employment, and she recalled her early enthusiasm for library work. A chance meeting with Carol Ansel, then a children's librarian at the Mystic & Noank Library, led to an interview with Carol's director, Joanna Case, who hired Gabriella, albeit part-time. She became full-time a year later, taking over the children's section of the library.

Joanna encouraged Gabriella to get her MLS, which she did, attending the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies part-time for four years. "My going to library school was good for my whole family," Gabriella points out. "Ted finally learned to cook, and Anna learned to take care of herself."

Despite her hectic schedule as a student, Gabriella enjoyed her library school experience and worked hard in her classes. She is glad she got the opportunity to attend URI because she believes that library school training provides a framework for decision-making and exposes students to different kinds of libraries and librarianship.

After graduating from URI in 1993, Gabriella accepted a position at Groton Public Library, where she worked as one of several children's librarians. At Groton, she gained experience working with a diverse clientele and enjoyed being part of a team with other professional children's librarians.

While at Groton, Gabriella accompanied several of her colleagues to the nearby Mashantucket Pequot reservation to see their new library, then a small but growing collection housed in trailers. The idea of building a library from scratch appealed to Gabriella and, in 1996, when the Mashantucket Pequot Research Center advertised for a children's librarian, she applied for and got the job.

Gabriella initially worked under Dr. Cheryl Metoyer (Cherokee), whose collection development philosophy was to include all works by or about Native people, even works that were inaccurate or offensive, in the interest of building a comprehensive research library. Although it is unusual for a research library to have a children's division, Dr. Metoyer



One of Gabriella Kaye's personal goals is to encourage Native people to enter the library profession.

extended the concept of comprehensive acquisition to the children's collection, accepting older materials that portrayed Native people in variously biased ways. Although this decision had the benefit of preserving the record of how Native people have been portrayed in literature throughout history, it also made selecting books about Native people for use in the classroom difficult. When the collection first opened to the public, teachers repeatedly asked Gabriella for help in selecting materials that accurately represented American Indian histories and cultures.

To address this issue, the Mashantucket Pequot Research Center decided to purchase duplicates of those books in its children's library that were authored by Native people and to house them in a separate collection. As a further means of assisting teachers, children's librarians, and others seeking materials with an authentic Native voice, Gabriella and her staff created a workshop called "Evaluating Materials for Children About Native Americans," which she presents periodically.

Gabriella's work with area teachers and their students is an important aspect of the children's library's mission, and she very much enjoys working with the school groups that schedule visits to the children's library. A couple years ago, she hosted nearly a hundred students, whose assignment was to read a picture book and then fill out a form with questions about their impressions of the book. Fortunately for Gabriella, all the students did not arrive at once, but in small groups! She also reads books or shows videos to classes visiting the Mashantucket Pequot Museum.

Another vital part of Gabriella's job is working with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Child Development Center. The center is housed on the reservation and provides childcare and a preschool through kindergarten, as well as after school care through third grade. Eight classes at the center visit the children's library for story time every week.

Gabriella loves her job at the Mashantucket Pequot Research Center and she is active in related professional organizations. She is a member of the American Indian Library Association and will be participating in a panel discussion on reviewing children's materials sponsored by that organization at ALA this summer. Last year, she was invited to serve on the American Indian Library Association's Youth Book Awards Committee.

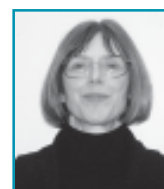
One of Gabriella's personal goals is to encourage Native people to enter the library profession and she is looking forward to working with an intern from the University of Maine who hopes to start a library and cultural center for her own people—the Western Shoshone.

For more information about the children's collections at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, go to [childrenslibrary@mptn-nsn.gov](mailto:childrenslibrary@mptn-nsn.gov) or contact Gabriella at [gkaye@mptn-nsn.gov](mailto:gkaye@mptn-nsn.gov).

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

## SPOTLIGHT

**Gabriella Kaye**  
*Children's Librarian,  
Mashantucket Pequot Museum  
and Research Center*



*Carol Abatelli*

*Gabriella's work with area teachers and their students is an important aspect of the children's library's mission, and she very much enjoys working with the school groups that schedule visits to the children's library.*



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**CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES**

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**CHESHIRE LIBRARY'S PODCAST:  
A "TEEN-DRIVEN CULTURAL MAGAZINE"**

*Continued from page 1*

teens on the editorial board, I figured out the recording and editing procedures as I went along, making mistakes along the way. Our project demonstrates that sophisticated technical expertise and expensive equipment are not necessary to launch a successful library podcast.

We produce, edit, and record the podcast in a glorified closet using an Internet-connected iMac computer. To record, we use a plug-and-play USB microphone purchased for the purpose; we also have a portable digital recorder for off-site recording. For software, we use Garage Band, which is included in the iLife suite, standard on all Apple computers. Once the editorial board and I approve each segment, the contributors record and edit their work with minimal assistance or oversight. I serve as mentor, enforcer, editor, technical support consultant, and final arbiter of content.

Podcasting works so well as a teen program because the scope of the project utilizes and develops a wide range of assets, from leadership and computer skills to performing arts. Teens are excited by the opportunity to experiment with cutting-edge technology. They are thrilled by the chance to make their voices heard online, in a new medium, by a wide audience. But every participant must also confront growth opportunities: deadlines, technical malfunctions, and unexpected production challenges—as well as the ongoing responsibilities of publicity and recruitment.

Publicity and accessibility are the keys to a successful program. We want to make it as easy as possible to listen to our show, so we offer several options. Each episode is burned onto CD and made available at the library. Listeners may also stream each episode from our library website or subscribe to our RSS feed through the iTunes music store or the podcatcher of their choice. Podcasting is a new technology, misleadingly named, and many members of our community are intimidated by the project until they borrow a CD and hear the show. Each CD is packaged with directions for how to subscribe to the podcast on iTunes, where listeners may find other podcasts of interest.

Libraries are beginning to make available all sorts of audio content through their websites. Podcasting is a tool with tremendous potential, only barely explored. At Cheshire Public Library, we will eagerly follow the development of podcasting and other Web 2.0 tools. We don't

know what our podcast will sound like next month, next year, or beyond. We will continue to experiment on our own and to learn from other projects while maintaining the core values of our teen-driven podcast.

*Sarah Kline Morgan is youth librarian for the Cheshire Public Library.*

**Bridges to the Community:  
Hebron's Model Teen Program**

*by Mary Ellen Beck*

**A**lthough the Douglas Library took occupancy of a new building in 1999, the only provision made for young adults was an aging collection of books shelved in the adult section. About a year ago, we decided to make service to teens a priority and created a multi-faceted program to address their interests and needs.

The library could not afford to hire a teen librarian; however, a high school English teacher agreed to mentor a Teen Advisory Board (TAB), and teens took the lead in developing every aspect of the program. Their fundamental ideas included the creation of a welcoming physical space for YAs in the library, a website created and maintained by teens, service programs to connect teens to other groups who use the library, and events for teens.

The library had no separate room that could be given over exclusively to YAs, so a decision was made to move the reference collection from the center of the adult floor. This area, with its low shelving, has plenty of space to highlight the teen collection and other displays. Establishing the teen area in such a prominent location emphasizes the importance of this patron group.

The TAB weeded the YA collection under the supervision of the staff and selected new materials. Carrels were moved into an adjacent area, two of which hold the new college resource collection and career materials. We bought two new computers for YAs and created signage for the area. And to give it special character, the Friends of the Library paid for an eye-catching geometrical area rug that TAB selected. With the assistance of the high school art department, several teens learned how to make abstract glass forms, which they turned into attractive mobiles that further delineate the area. The teens selected posters showing famous teen idols reading and these were affixed to the ends of the shelving units.

*Continued on page 12*

## CANDIDATES FOR CLA OFFICES 2007/2008

Continued from page 7

face interaction and communication that occurs between and among patrons and staff provides a dominant advantage over the Internet and will keep libraries viable and relevant long into the future.

### REGION 5 REPRESENTATIVE

#### Bridget Quinn-Carey

Director, Essex Library Association

#### Education

BA, State University of New York at Binghamton; MLS, St. John's University



#### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, ALA, NELA, LAMA, PLA  
CLA Conference Co-Chair, 2003; Region 4 Representative, 2005-. LAMA Program Committee, 1994-1997; Strategic Planning Committee, 1996; COLA Representative, 1994-1997. LION Secretary, 2002-2006; Vice-President, 2006 -.

#### Of all of the books that discuss the love of reading or the love of books, which is your favorite and why?

*The Book That Changed My Life*, by Roxanne Coady and Joy Johannessen. We had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Coady at the Essex Library recently. She and Ms. Johannessen have created a treasure—a collection of essays that discuss the transformative power of reading, and how each contributing author found comfort, inspiration, perspective, a voice—through one book they read.

Many authors cited books they encountered during their teenage years, a testament to how important it is to reach out to children and teens, to help them find books and stories that will enable them to chart a course for their own lives. This is not a “What is your favorite book?” anthology, but rather a moving account of books that really did change the authors’ lives. Some titles, like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Catcher in the Rye*, weren’t surprises; others like the *Sears Catalog* and *Henry VIII* made for very interesting insights to the authors’ psyche!

This is certainly a book to buy for your personal collection, and we’re planning a display to showcase all the titles we can get our hands on.

### NELA REPRESENTATIVE

#### Mary Etter

Director, South Windsor Public Library

#### Education

AB, College of New Rochelle; MLS, Simmons



#### Professional Activities

Member: CLA, NELA, ALA, PLA, LAMA, CSL Board, CLC Board Chair, CT Center for the Book Advisory Council, 2000-2006 (Chair, CT Book Awards Committee, 2000-) CLA

NELA Representative, 2005-; President, 1983-4; Legislative Committee; various section positions. NELA President, 1998-9; Conference Chair, 1998; Secretary, 1987-8; various section positions.

#### Of all the books that discuss the love of reading or the love of books, which is your favorite and why? It is often said that libraries can transform lives. Please give an example from your experience.

The distinction between book store and library in Helene Hanff’s *84, Charing Cross Road* is mighty slim, and I can’t think of a book more devoted to books and reading and the changes in lives that can result from the perfect mix. The true story of a two-decade friendship born of delight with the printed word and nurtured by correspondence both formal and flip, *84, Charing Cross Road* mirrors the wonderful relationships that exist between the best patrons and the best librarians.

Letters written by New Yorker Helene Hanff to Frank Doel of Marks & Co., Booksellers, of London—and his replies—trace a business encounter that is enriched by the bookseller’s knowledge of books, eagerness to completely understand the customer’s need, and sincere effort to find exactly the right book to answer the question at hand. On the other side of the equation, Hanff tries to explain her needs clearly (with sometimes hilarious detail), and admits her own shortcomings and shares her joy and appreciation when Doel finds what she needs. Eventually, still through letters only, the circle expands to include other members of the staff at Marks & Co., Doel’s family, and other friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

Helene Hanff and Frank Doer never met face-to-face, a detail that underlines for me the notion that our business is one in which we may never truly know how our efforts have affected others. Look back and you’ll probably remember the “desperate” patron who always called ten minutes before closing, the demanding customer requesting more and more detailed interpretations of this law or that regulation, or the person whose name you might not know showing up with chocolates for the staff before a holiday. In one of my library jobs, the staff had an unwritten list of patrons we “knew” except for some mysterious little gaps—and then we decided it was more challenging not to know everything about them. That we knew *anything* personal about them—and vice versa—was the result of the special bond between people that can be stitched by words: the sharing of questions, ideas, and opinions. Changes in tools or methods have not diminished the fact that our profession provides services important to our patrons on a very personal level, now and then “changing” a life. ■

### TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 8

Two good *PC World* articles on this topic are “The Best (and Worst) ISPs” ([pcworld.com/article/id,120341/article.html](http://pcworld.com/article/id,120341/article.html)) and “The Best Broadband ISPs in America” ([www.pcworld.com/article/id,126807-page,1/article.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,126807-page,1/article.html)).

Sylvia Boyd is head of technical services at Bridgeport Public Library. Contact her at [sboyd@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org](mailto:sboyd@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org).

**BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNITY:  
HEBRON'S MODEL TEEN PROGRAM**

*Continued from page 10*

Teen meetings are scheduled in the community room so they can discuss their issues in private. The TAB meets monthly to select materials, and committees meet separately to plan events.

The teens created their own section on the library's website with a page for recommended books, which are featured in displays along with a printed booklet of other selections. They have compiled links of interest to teens and a list of volunteer opportunities. The TAB membership application is available on their page as is information about their programs and event pictures. They have a blog where they post comments to each other and they publish a print newsletter, *The Tablet*.

The TAB decided to be more than teen-based in their interests. Teens trained with the children's department to do summer story time programs. They held these sessions weekly at the town recreation camp for young children. They also decided to do something for seniors and planned an event to bring them from the senior center for a morning of fun at the library. They collected board games and held a successful get together, including a snack for the seniors, interaction with them, and prizes. Recognizing the library's need to raise funds, they support the Friends' book sales by setting up tables on Friday evening before each Saturday sale and returning afterwards to take the tables down.

The teens' coffee house, "What's Underneath," showcases their creativity. Assisted by the high school media department, they show student-made films and read short stories and poetry in a café setting, which they create in the library by setting up tables and preparing snacks. These Friday afternoon events attract between 40 to 50 teens.

The group has become an integral part of what we do, and it is considered "cool" to join. Two part-time paid positions in the adult circulation department are reserved for teen employees, with preference given to TAB members. It is very



**Douglas Library's Teen Advisory Board**

*Top row:* Brian Finn, Katie Czaja, Erica Kowsz, Lynn Kowsz, Cory Tyler

*Middle row:* Chelsea Humphrey, Valerie Charboneau, Meredith Stuart, Rob Reynolds

*Seated:* Marisa Finn, Courtney Federico, Hillary Federico, Alex Moore

positive for teenage patrons to see their schoolmates working at the library in the evening and on Saturdays. The paid teen employees act as liaisons from the library staff to TAB, helping to keep relationships between the staff and the teens running smoothly.

The group's energy and commitment is amazing and has gained the attention of patrons. One mother wheeling a stroller recently remarked that she hoped TAB would be around when her child becomes a teen! ■

*Mary Ellen Beck is the director of the Douglas Library.*

**HERITAGE**

*Continued from page 5*

impact on the community. More than one visitor has called it the "jewel of Bristol" and has commented about how proud they are of their new library.

*A Libratects workshop will take place at the Bristol Public Library on April 4 at 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People involved with the project will be on hand to discuss it and to conduct tours.*



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