

CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of
the Connecticut
Library
Association

A Salute to Departing Colleagues

Many long-time colleagues have departed from the Connecticut library scene over the course of the past year—most to retirement, some to accept employment in other states, and a few have died. This special issue of *Connecticut Libraries* is an acknowledgement of their talents and skills, a thank-you note for their myriad accomplishments, and our wish for the very best to those who are moving on to new stages in their lives.

Limited space in the newsletter made it necessary to shorten many of the original comments I received, so with Kirsten Kilbourn's help, these have been mounted on the CLA website. You can read more about your colleagues there.

David Kapp, Editor

If daily contact with our departing colleagues is missing in the coming years, their excellent examples will surely still echo in our everyday actions and our approaches to library issues.

- When infinite patience and gentle persistence are called for, Mike Moran's years of service at the helm of our Legislative Committee can serve as a model.
- When a clear and thoughtful statement of an issue is needed, we'll have Laura Kahkonen's elegant letters to the editor to use as examples.
- When our faces and voices must give the most "professional" spin to the most draining and inescapable pressures, Kathy Cockcroft's grace can be our guide.
- When we need to "think outside the box," Alan Benkert's applesauce sale for PEG's benefit can be the pattern.
- When a friend needs cheering or a new colleague needs mentoring, we'll hear Betsy Bray suggesting lunch, offering a ride to a meeting or an opportunity for committee work, or just phoning to welcome a new person into the fold.

We're lucky that so many people missing from Connecticut's library scene will be only a phone call away, and that our departing colleagues are setting off on adventures that just might be the stuff of future library programs. It's icing on the cake that those who move will be going to places we'd want to visit. Field trip anyone?

Mary Etter, Director, South Windsor Public Library

Judith Augusta, head librarian of the Derby Neck Library, retired on November 12, 2007 after continuous service beginning in 1989. A graduate of Wellesley College, she completed her MLS while employed at Derby Neck. She began work as a part-time library assistant and rose to head librarian in 1994. She was in charge of the library move in 1999, the temporary storefront library until 2002, and the reopening of the greatly expanded (60% addition) and technologically enhanced Derby Neck Library. A testament to her leadership is the continuing service of all staff members she hired in 2002; they will always remember her and the homey atmosphere she maintained at the library. The entire Derby Neck "family" wishes her the best in her new ventures.

Pat Sweeney, Derby Neck Library

Alan Benkert, director of the Groton Public Library for the last 22 years, retired at the end of June. Alan recognized the significance of the Internet



early on and made sure the library was fully wired. The building now has many Internet accessible computers for the public, a personal computing lab for teaching computer novices, and a wi-fi network that can accommodate wireless laptops.

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SPOTLIGHT

Kathy Leeds Director, Wilton Library Association



Douglas Lord

Leeds says, "In this time of economic challenges, we have to prove our importance to the health of our communities, our prudent and effective use of public and private funds, and our relevance to stakeholders of all sorts."

One might not guess that the refined Kathy Leeds, director of the Wilton Library Association (WLA) and incoming president of the CLA, is a Jersey girl. Born in Lakewood, Leeds grew up in nearby White Plains and married her high school sweetheart.

Leeds always thought she would be a teacher as family in that profession included her mother, grandmother, and grandfather. But after majoring in social psychology at Duke University, she was hired by Time, Inc. as a corporate trainee. Over the course of six years she worked in a rotation of positions throughout the company, working her way up to assistant circulation director at *Money* magazine. She then "retired" to be a mother.

For Leeds, this was not a difficult a decision because, she says, "After six years of commuting to NYC, I was more than ready to stay home for a while." She acknowledges that "it was difficult to leave a successful career where I knew what I was doing" to go to the wilds of suburbia where the learning curve of her new job as full-time mom "was steep all over again." Leeds adds that, "even though the kids now are aged 32 and 26, I am still learning the parenting position!"

During this time, Leeds worked as an aide in the Middlebrook School Library in Wilton for eight years. At the urging of her then boss, she returned to Syracuse University for her MLS degree in the then brand-spanking-new distance program.

"It was one of the first of its kind," recalls Leeds, "and quite a challenge. I had to learn very quickly how to use a very new and clunky Internet; this was in 1995 when the entire electronic communication world was so different from what it is today. I did the degree in two years, attending three-week sessions in the summers and then a couple of long weekends twice a year during the winter on campus. The rest was done from home while I was working full time. My husband and children were a great help to get me through this exhausting but exhilarating time."

After interning at the Wilton Library Association, Leeds "was not yet graduated when I accepted the job of part-time business reference librarian." She took the job as library director in 2001 and assumes the presidency of CLA this month.

Leeds is clear on her goals as she takes office. "Helping to strengthen the position of all sorts of Connecticut libraries is critical," she says. "In this time of economic challenges, we have to prove our importance to the health of our communities, our prudent and effective use of public and private funds, and our relevance to stakeholders of all sorts."

Acknowledging Connecticut's robust continuing education and professional development opportunities, Leeds notes, "We need more focus on strategy. Strategic thinking and acting must become more a part of library life if we are to thrive in an atmosphere of competition for support. When dollars are stretched tight, it's both good and bad for libraries; we have less to work with, but patrons need and use us more." Leeds emphasizes that "finding and using our stakeholders, tailoring what we do to what our communities need, and publicizing these efforts" should be at the top of the list for all libraries.

"One of many really good things about CLA," Leeds says, "is that it provides opportunities for collegial support. We all need that, especially in times that are tough. We can all learn from each other." She mentions that the 2009 annual conference, to be held in New Haven, is the "culmination of the efforts of many—Connecticut's big opportunity to bring everyone together.

We already have some really exciting speakers and authors and are lining up some great programming."

Leeds feels that CLA will benefit from her experience as an association librarian. "When you're in the limelight a lot, drumming up money for construction, programs, operations, materials, you see everyone you meet as a potential donor. That sharpens your perceptions and attitudes." Leeds knows that "in a municipal library, it's not always that way," but also sees the library community "waking up to what private library associations do all the time—getting the funding, the votes, the backing of influential people. It's like breathing to us," she says, adding that, for all libraries, "It can never hurt to make more friends and find more support from a variety of people."

Leeds's presidency comes on the heels of Wilton's successful, \$11M building renovation, for which it won a 2008 Excellence in Public Library Architecture Award. Currently, notes Leeds, "Some of the items that were value engineered out of the original construction project are now are being completed: signage, a new HVAC system, a roof for the original building, and a few other things." The WLA is also using a new bequest to modify the front entrance and otherwise make ambulation around the larger building easier for those with limited mobility.

Leeds says, "The most exciting thing about being post-project is seeing the uses to which the new spaces are being put. Our programs are so much more exciting and plentiful and serve so many more diverse groups in the community." She "loves to see the growing numbers of community organizations and businesses that are using the library as a meeting place and resource."

The project reinforced Leeds's perception that big projects help to focus staff on the library. Because she considers staff as critical stakeholders in major undertakings, Leeds often succeeds at getting people on board. Though she acknowledges that managing is challenging, she says that "hiring, mentoring, inspiring, guiding and directing staff" is one of her favorite things to do. "I love being able to bring together a group of employees who understand and embrace the mission of the library, who are able to bring their considerable talents to bear on the jobs we undertake to achieve our goals, and who themselves create a team that is efficient, effective, and caring."

Another challenge, "The annual budget wrangle," Leeds says, "is not my favorite time of year. Balancing needs with resources is tough." WLA is "constantly challenged to raise money privately, and though that is a good thing, forcing us to continually examine and prove our relevance to the community and potential donors, it is tiring," she admits.

WLA's responsiveness to the larger community was recognized in 2005 with CLA's Excellence in Public Service Award for spearheading "Operation Respect" in response to a racial and homophobic episode. Says Leeds, "We are fortunate to have the support of the community and to be generally well funded through both municipal and private sources, but none of it comes easily."

When not traveling and going to the theater, Leeds loves listening to jazz. The new library contains a 150-seat performance space named for Wilton resident, library champion, and jazz great Dave Brubeck, and "being able to know the Brubeck family is one of the great pleasures of my job in Wilton," she says.

Douglas Lord is LSTA program assistant for the Connecticut State Library.

Connecticut libraries are as diverse in character as the communities they serve. My year as vice president of CLA convinced me, though, that our commonality of cause can outweigh differences in size, budget, and customer base. Within local fiscal constraints and mandates, our libraries all strive to become or remain well-funded, vital, and integral centers of learning and culture for our communities. CLA's primary role must be to support public, academic, school, and special libraries with the tools needed to achieve this goal.

Such a simple statement carries much responsibility, but CLA has clearly embraced the assignment, providing inspiration, collaboration, and education through its annual conference (slated for April 29-May 1, 2009, in New Haven), website (www.ctlibraryassociation.org), and workshops. My hope for the coming year is that we will hone the substance of the messages delivered via our network of professional support, providing targeted training and conversations that help members succeed in strategic ways — and augment our ranks; there is, after all, more than just safety in numbers.

We all do good things — lots of them. We provide safe havens, preserve intellectual freedom, ensure the right to privacy, act as a public forum for civil discourse, promote literacy and a love of literature and learning, and assemble collections that are responsive to our users' needs. In addition, we serve as a safety net in tough economic times, providing programming, services, and materials at little or no cost to our customers.

In light of all the good we do, why are libraries in need of support? Why are we not granted without question the corporate, public, or private funds necessary to get on with the work at hand? Why do we constantly need to defend bare bones budgets, live with the specter of crippling funding cuts, operate with less staff, inadequate technology, and less than optimal schedules? I believe it's because libraries do not get the respect and recognition they deserve from those who matter most—strategically

The role of CLA, therefore, should be to boost respect and recognition, not only through statewide advocacy (a job well done in recent years through legislative lobbying), but also through local advocacy that gets at the root of inadequate funding. We shouldn't whine (ala Rodney Dangerfield) about the fact that we "don't get no respect." Instead, we need to embark on a proactive, self-assured mission to demand that respect and recognition be granted:

- **We need to get our individual houses in order**, so that respect for our good deeds is not tainted by sloppy or inadequate legal and fiscal underpinnings.

What should CLA provide? More expert information on the nuts and bolts of policy making, risk management, goal setting, resource allocation, and legal issues

- **We need to identify those who control the flow of money and information in our communities** and bring pressure to grant recognition and support for our efforts. We must bring all our stakeholders to agree with Carl Sagan who once said, "I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries."

What should CLA provide? More information on strategic planning and management, public relations, and marketing

- **We need to keep doing good things, but more often in collaboration with other community organizations**, bringing new respect and recognition from those not aware of all we have to offer.

What should CLA provide? More inspiration and information about new, high profile programs that will draw both partners and participants

- **We need to be continually wiser on obtaining and managing the means by which we deliver service.**

What should CLA provide? More information on selecting, evaluating, mentoring, and releasing or retaining staff. More information on relevant technology for all needs and for all budgets

- **We need to develop additional sources of revenue**, diversifying and mitigating our reliance on our single largest donor (whether it is a municipality, a corporation, or an individual).

What should CLA provide? More information on revenue producing activities (including tax and legal implications), on fundraising events, grants, capital campaigns, and annual appeals

Is this a tall order? Not at all. Working together with and within CLA, Connecticut libraries can contribute to and profit from more knowledge about these vital issues. Together we share the will to survive and thrive within our communities. Together we can ensure our success. I am honored to be able to serve as president of CLA this year and count on all of you to help me make the most of the challenges and opportunities we face.

Kathy Leeds is director of the Wilton Library. Contact her at kcleeds@wiltonlibrary.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

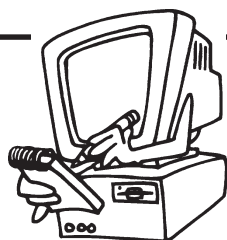
Seeking Recognition – and Support



Kathy Leeds

The role of CLA should be to boost respect and recognition [for libraries], not only through state advocacy, ...but also through local advocacy that gets at the root of inadequate funding.

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



Send contributions to:

David Kapp, Editor
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Phone: (860) 647-0697
4 Llynwood Drive
Bolton, CT 06043

Deadline: Second Friday of the month prior to publication.

HIGHLIGHTS

Public Comment Jay Johnston recognized and thanked Mike Moran and Jan Fisher for their years of service to CLA.

Donations 1) Alison Wang requested a donation of \$100 to purchase books for the victims of the May earthquake in China. Request approved. 2) Jan Fisher requested a \$100 donation for ALA's Cultural Communities Fund. Motion failed. Kathy Leeds moved that CLA establish a committee to create a donation policy and procedures for CLA. Motion approved.

President Carl Antonucci thanked the board for its support throughout the year.

Treasurer Jan Fisher noted a modest gain in the investment account and the transfer of \$8,000 from it to cover scholarships.

ALA Jay Johnston discussed ALA Legislative Days in Washington, D.C., noting that libraries are not getting the financial support previously received at the national level

CLASS John Cayer said that CLASS will review its salary survey data over the summer and present the information at November's CLASS conference.

State Library Ken Wiggin reported that the FY 2008/09 biennium budget was passed by the legislature; all accounts remain intact, including \$350,000 for CLC. However, the governor may impose a 3-5% budget reduction across the board. There is also a hiring freeze and the state is working to reduce mileage by 25%.

Career Recruitment Debbie Herman noted this committee's merger with Mentoring. She and Kim Farrington will co-chair the committee; a half-day retreat is being planned.

Children Co-chair Liz McKay is leaving the board. Caitlyn August (Darien Library) will succeed her, working with Gail Zeiba.

Friends Anita Wilson announced that Wendell Minor is the speaker at the Friends annual meeting in June.

Intellectual Freedom Jan Day discussed the launch of the Big Read in New Haven.

Membership Janet Woycik reported membership at 909.

NELA Betsy Bray reported that the NELA conference will be in Manchester, NH October 19-21. Four librarians from CT (Beth Crowley, Groton; Julian Aiken, Wallingford; Gail Zeiba, Willimantic; Patricia Valsecchi, Woodbridge) will participate in NELS; Mike Moran will serve as a mentor.

Publicity Chris Bradley reported that she and Betty Anne Reiter will co-chair this committee. They are reviewing the program and discussing ideas for "One Book for Children."

Technical Services Tom Schadlich reported that Jacqueline Toce will be the new chair.

YA Ann Marie Naples announced that Christine Tkaczyk (Durham PL) will succeed Katie Bunn as co-chair.

Correction In the conference wrap-up issue (May 2008), *CL* mistakenly referred to Stephen Abram as incoming president of the Canadian Library Association. He is past president of that association and incoming president of SLA.

A SALUTE TO DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

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In 1993, Alan realized that the library needed to expand in order to accommodate new technology and to comply with ADA standards. He oversaw the library's expansion and renovation, which was completed in 1996—the first major physical improvements to the building since it had opened in 1977. Alan has been a firm proponent of intellectual freedom, never backing down from censorship challenges. He is a great handyman and a book sorter extraordinaire, managing the library's annual book sale. The staff and community are grateful to Alan for his many years of faithful service.

Jean Schweid, Groton Public Library

Jeanne Sedik Blythe moved to Killingworth in the early '70s. She understood from the start that if she wanted to meet people in a small New England town, she would have to get out and volunteer. In 1972, with previous library experience, Jeanne volunteered to help out at the library. A year later she was hired as Killingworth's first paid librarian. After retiring in 1989, she volunteered at the library's circulation desk. An avid reader, Jeanne enjoyed every aspect of the work. "I love being around books and helping people find them. Anything I have done to help out has given so much more back to me. It is how I met most of the people I know in town." Co-workers are grateful for Jeanne's mentoring and still marvel at the extensive knowledge that enabled her to help patrons find the right book down the right aisle. The Killingworth Library has been fortunate to have Jeanne Sedik Blythe as both librarian and volunteer and wishes her well as she makes more time for other things in her life. Jeanne would insist that the good fortune has all been her's.

Kathleen Amoia, Killingworth Library



Betsy Bray retired as director of the Cora Belden Library in Rocky Hill on June 27, 2008. The following is a slightly edited proclamation from Governor Jodi Rell. Whereas, Betsy Bray has been director of the Cora J. Belden Library for 12 years; Whereas, Betsy has developed library programs that have led to a doubling of use under her leadership; Whereas, Betsy has made customer service a hallmark of the Belden Library making it a beloved institution in Rocky Hill; Whereas, the Belden Library has become an award winning library during Betsy's tenure, winning the Support Staff of the Year Award, Supporter of Support Staff Award and St. Patrick's Day Parade Judges Award for their Library Book Cart Drill Team; Whereas, Betsy has exemplified professional commitment and dedication during her career, having served as president of CLA, NELA, and the CRLC; Whereas, Betsy oversaw the renovation of the Belden Library, to update it for better service to the citizens of Rocky Hill; Whereas, Betsy served as children's librarian at the Windsor Public Library for many years, becoming a leader in Connecticut in library service to children; Whereas Betsy was honored by her peers with the Faith Hektoen Award for excellence in library service to children; Whereas, Betsy is an internationally known expert on the life and times of Beatrix Potter, having served as president of the Beatrix Potter

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A SALUTE TO DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

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Society, presenting programs all over the world on Beatrix Potter and acting as a consultant to the producers of the movie *Miss Potter*; Whereas, Betsy is always ready to celebrate milestones in the careers of her friends and colleagues; Therefore, in celebration of the milestone of her retirement I proclaim Monday June 16, 2008 as Betsy Bray Day.

Governor M. Jodi Rell



David Bryant, former director of the New Caanan Library, left Connecticut to lead the Rancho Mirage (CA) Library in April 2008. He and I are obsessed with politics, but we agree on almost nothing politically. When I was writing my short-lived blog, I would throw to left, and he never missed hurling back, always eloquently. He professes to love TV, but the man reads everything and refuses to be put in anyone's ideological pigeonhole. (I think it is safe to call him a conservative, albeit a compassionate one.) Dave's remarkable mind never gives up; when he goes to a conference, he doesn't just pack, he sets up an itinerary, including such items as "engaging in conversation with friends." And he always gets invited to the best parties. Perhaps it is his sense of style, as well as his intellectual curiosity, that accounts for his being such a gifted public library director. Dave not only did all the community networking, of which there is plenty in New Canaan, but he initiated the morning shape-up meeting for all staff, and the department heads' News and Views every week after Rotary. Dave's long time friend, Les Kozerowitz, has this to say about him: "David is a man of passions: for his friends, his art, all manner of rolling stock and, of course, libraries. He never failed to elicit strong reaction to his many pronouncements, and he was an endless source of amusement (sometimes deliberately, sometimes not) for those around him. He is erudite (not pedantic), eloquent (not verbose) and tall (not short)." Perhaps Jay Johnston limned him best when he said: "David Bryant is the paragon of library directorship, in that he knows how to effectively change the environment incrementally to give traction and success to his program."

Christine Bradley, CLC

Victoria Chase "*A 50-year-old grandmother in the Peace Corps?*" was the original title of her blog. On May 2, 2008, Vicky Chase left Newington's Lucy Robbins Welles Library after 13 years to



pursue a lifetime dream of joining the Peace Corps. She will be teaching technology to middle school students in Ghana when she finishes her training in August. Those of us who worked with her know what an asset she will be to those students; she's a wonderful teacher, never making us feel awkward for questions we would ask, rewarding us with chocolate, and making up little ditties to help us remember the unfamiliar. And what a great ambassador she will be for our countries—she's warm, welcoming, adventurous and always smiling. Follow her adventures at person@wordpress.com or send an email to sevi.chase@gmail.com and tell her "Ayikoo" (hello in the African Twi language) from all of us in Newington.

Helen Aveline, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, Newington

Kathy Cockcroft, director of the Canton Public Library since 1999, left Connecticut in April 2008 to move to Texas with her family. Earlier, she served as deputy director of the Cheshire Public Library and as a reference librarian at the New Britain Public Library. She began her tenure at Canton just as the library was moving into its new facility and, as Canton's first selectman said, "transformed it into a first-class facility." Kathy cared deeply about her patrons, young and old, and worked hard to make the library a warm, friendly, community-oriented place. Those of us who worked with her still miss her every day. With her Texas-sized heart, she will surely find a niche in her new library community just as she did here in Connecticut.

Sarah McCusker, Canton Public Library



Anne Dodge (MSLS, Simmons College) will retire as the director of library services at Northwestern Connecticut Community College on August 1, 2008. During her 29-year tenure at NCCC, Anne chaired various college-wide committees and was an active participant in numerous statewide organizations, including the Council of Librarians, Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors, Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors of Higher Education, and Administrative Systems Advisory Committee of the Connecticut Community Colleges. She was also a member of several New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation teams.

Pamela Bellows, Northwestern CT Community College

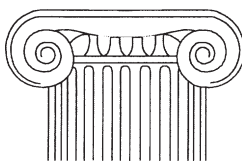
Phyllis Gleeson was hired as a library assistant at Enfield Public Library in 1983. Her cheerful manner and calm approach at the circulation desk was an asset to all who had dealings with her. Even-keeled and solution-oriented, her focus and enjoyment of a challenge consistently took precedence over complaint. Keenly intelligent, she was instrumental in the library's crossover from the old GEAC automation system to Connect. (270,000 data records! 20,000 users!) Next she moved up to become administrative assistant, handling a myriad of tasks and deadlines, from PR to paper-eating printers. A quick study and jack-of-all-trades, Phyllis assimilated all she needed to know to complete any job assigned and was always one to go the extra mile. Next, her love of books could not let her pass up the technical processor position. She enthusiastically embraced the new learning challenge and was for many years our representative to Library Connection's Bibliographic Services Committee. Throughout her 25-year career, her work reviews have consistently read "outstanding" "exceptional" "team player" and "on target." We salute Phyllis Gleeson, whose talent, dedication and intelligence wrapped up in a dear friend whose humor, compassion, advice, and direction continues to enhance the quality of our lives, as well as our workplace.

Anna Cashman, Enfield Public Library



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HERITAGE



West Hartford Public Library *Expanding Excellence*

by Pat Holloway



Library Director

Pat Holloway

Original Building, 1938

Additions in 1962 and 1980, 2007 renovation added 17,000 sq. ft., total 57,000 sq. ft.

Dedication

January 6, 2008

Architect

Tuthill & Associates

Seating

325, including meeting rooms for 120 and 20

Public Computers

56, computer lab for 20

Parking

Town garage with 450 spaces (two hours free), plus on-street parking

Population

64,225

Years in the planning, West Hartford's Noah Webster Library project included resident focus groups, consultation with individuals with limited mobility, visits to recently renovated libraries in other towns and consultation with leading librarians before the ground-breaking ceremony in August 2006. We celebrated the completion of the \$9 million renovation and expansion project with a Grand Re-Opening on January 6, 2008.

The project was designed to:

- Add 17,000 sq. ft., for a building total of 57,000 sq. ft.
- Triple the size of the heavily used children's area
- Create a space specifically designed for teens
- Redesign the main floor to provide more space for new materials, media, informal seating, study and research
- Ensure access to all areas for all patrons and staff
- Upgrade technology: double the number of public access computers, build a 20-seat computer training lab, add wireless access, offer self-checkout, and expand online resources
- Provide community meeting space for 120 people with a state-of-the-art media system, and a conference room for 20
- Update the exhibits gallery
- Add a climate-controlled local history room in cooperation with the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society

Background When planning for the building program began in 1996, it had been 20 years since any substantial changes had been made to the Noah Webster Library building and 40 years since it had been expanded. During that time, West Hartford's population had remained relatively stable, hovering around 60,000 people. But the days when the town was a largely homogenous, middle class community are gone. Dramatic changes in the make-up of the town's population and the need for new services propelled the library to expand and upgrade its main facility and drove the planning process.

Today, over a half a million people utilize the services of West Hartford's three library buildings each year, the main branch most heavily. The population has grown to 64,225, including nearly 10,000 school children (as compared to 61,301 and 7,689 school children 20 years ago).

More significantly, this first-ring suburb is experiencing increasing pressure from economic, ethnic, and racial diversity. Just over 16% of the school population speaks languages other than English at home; schools are teaching English as a second language to children who speak 64 different languages. While West Hartford has many affluent families, 14% of students are eligible for reduced/free lunch (an indicator of low-income families.) The town works hard to serve its changing population; nevertheless the library board felt that one of the town's most important resources, the free public library, was in danger of lagging behind. They felt the time had come to revitalize the library's physical plant and its programming and services to address the needs of residents in the 21st century.

The 21st Century Library As more information becomes available electronically, one might think this would decrease the demand for additional physical library space. On the contrary, the demand for space is increasing as the role of the library changes. Libraries are becoming "common ground" for communities. In our consumer-oriented society, libraries are places where all patrons access services equally—without regard to their economic status. And, libraries are becoming important as facilitators of common understanding across diverse cultures. Exhibitions and programming, along with books and electronic resources, offer patrons exposure to, and education in the traditions and cultural practices of ethnic populations. Support for speakers-of-other-languages and their children is a new and vital area of service being provided by libraries.

Some statistics from 2005 show how the West Hartford Public Library serves citizens:

- Average daily attendance—1,487 people
- 2,318 programs, attended by 61,068 people (26,100 children)
- 820,171 items circulated
- Collection—278,886 print, 27,821 non-print items.

Funding Plan The total cost for renovations and expansion was \$9 million. The Town of West Hartford provided core funding of \$6.8 million. The Blue Back Square mixed-development project supplied \$5.5 million, and once the library had secured another million dollars in funding itself, the town committed the additional funds needed.

The Library also received:

- Community Development Block Grant: \$325,000;
- CSL Construction Grant: \$500,000
- Private grants: \$170,000
- Friends of the West Hartford Public Library: \$55,000
- West Hartford Library Foundation raised: \$1.25 million

The Library Foundation sought funds from private sources to complete the project by December 2007. A steering committee of committed volunteers was formed to spearhead the campaign; they have raised enough both to complete the project and also to maintain a balance in the foundation to use for future library needs.

Reflections Updating a 1938 building with its 1962 and 1980 additions, while adding two new additions was bound to unearth some surprises. Compromises had to be made along the way, and negotiations among the library director, architect, town building department and construction management were sometimes difficult, but the final product is overwhelmingly satisfactory.

Architect Bruce Tuthill, of Tuthill & Wells, Architects, LLC, a professional with many years of experience (and a West Hartford resident), was invaluable to the project. The sound advice of Nolan Lushington, who prepared the building program, set the project off on the right foot. The dedication of the West Hartford Library Board and the West Hartford Library

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HERITAGE

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Foundation Board and its fundraising Steering Committee, headed by champion fundraiser Michael Wilder, made the dreams of many years a reality.

And what of the future? Although the space on the site seems completely built-out, the library arranged with the developers that the building directly behind the library (and only five feet away) is constructed on the exact same level as the main floor of the library, with enough support to bear the load of library shelving. If built out, this space would allow for an additional 10,000 sq. ft. on the main level.

On January 6, 2008, we re-opened the library to well over a thousand people, and with only four working stations, we checked out over 3,000 items in that first four hours! The event was a "must attend" for all our local politicians, for donors, and for our many enthusiastic library users. In fact, attendance at the opening topped the record for the whole Blue Back area with its many upscale restaurants and stores!

We learned many things during the course of this project. Shifting services to our branch facilities and keeping all of the staff working (both branches maintained 72-hour weeks) taught our patrons how valuable their branches are. And it taught the staff about each person's unique and important role in making the library function; it helped us all to find new ways to work together and with our town.

Would I do it again? Actually, I would rather build something brand new. Wouldn't you?

Save These Dates!

Wednesday, October 1

10:00 – 12:00, West Hartford PL
"This Old Library: Richardson Libraries
and Historic Library Renovations"
CLA Public Library Section Fall Meeting

Thursday, November 6

9:00-4:00, Windsor PL
"Open Source ILS Showcase"
CLA Technical Services Section
Fall Meeting

Friday, November 7

9:00-4:00, Middlesex Community College
CT Library Association Support
Staff (CLASS) Annual Conference
Exciting speakers, career training,
professional networking opportunities,
great food, and more! Gene Kinally, recently
retired from the Library of Congress and a
support staff colleague, is our keynoter. If
you have ideas for sessions or speakers or
would like to assist with conference
planning, please contact CLASS Chair John
Cayer at JCayer@mail.fairfield.edu

Noah Webster Library West Hartford Public Library

Under Construction



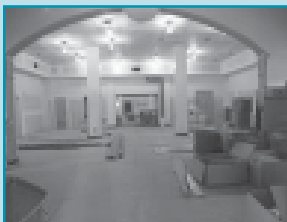
South Addition



North Addition



Main Floor



Restored Gallery

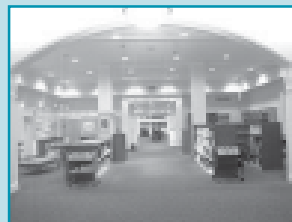
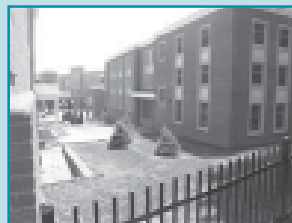


Children's Area



Reference Area

Completed



A SALUTE TO DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

Continued from page 5



Jan Gluz, CLC's office manager, died on February 10, 2008. I just hung the Jan Gluz Cooperative Spirit Award plaque in the place of honor in the CLC office. It has been four months since we lost Jan, and it is still pretty tough around here. We miss her charming voice on the phone, her no-nonsense filter for everything from politics to salespeople to library projects, and her continuous and unalloyed joy in the successes of others. How proud Jan would have been this year at CLC's annual meeting when Bernadette Baldino, director of Easton Public Library and CLC's secretary, received the cooperative spirit award named, for the first time, after Jan. For over 25 years, Jan was someone on whose cooperative spirit so many could always depend. She knew many of us at the old film co-op in Seymour, in Hamden for two decades with SCLC, and finally at CLC, where she managed not only the money, but the people, those of us inside the office and those of you whom she knew on the phone and met at meetings. It wasn't until the week before she went into hospice that Jan allowed that she might consider working part time. Jan hauled herself up those back stairs every day because she knew that the work of libraries and librarians is important. It requires people who are smart and resourceful and responsible, even if they don't necessarily feel compelled to draw attention to themselves, just like Jan.

Chris Bradley, CT Library Consortium



Diane Hagymasi (BA, UConn) will retire as library associate/technical services at Northwestern Connecticut Community College on August 1, 2008. During her 19-year tenure at NCCC, Diane sat on numerous campus-wide committees and participated in the statewide Council of Librarians Technical Services Interest Group.

Pamela Bellows, NCCC

Marilyn Nye Hannah died on June 2, 2008. She graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, MA, in 1961 with a major in music, received cum laude. That same year she married Paul F. Hannah, Jr. She moved to Wilton in 1974 and joined the Wilton High School library staff as an aide in 1980, working there until the onset of her final illness. In addition to working with students, her duties included recruiting and directing efforts of all library volunteer parents.

For many years Marilyn was youth choir director at the Wilton Congregational Church, a member of the choir at the church, and a substitute organist. She was active as a PTA member and in the Fairfield County Student Operetta Workshop. She enjoyed supporting her husband in his role as first selectman and loved working in her flower garden. She also enjoyed paddle tennis, playing practical jokes and doting on her five grandchildren, whom she called her "cherubs."

Excerpted from an obituary in the Wilton Bulletin, June 5, 2008



Laura Kahkonen, director of the Windsor Public Library, retired on June 30 after 33 years of service to the library. Laura joined the staff in 1975 as a reference librarian. Eventually, she was promoted to head of adult services and, in 1990, she was appointed library director. One of her earliest tasks as a new staff member was to join other staff and Windsor residents in January 1976 as part of the book brigade that moved the collection out of the library so it could be renovated and expanded. Thirty years later, in 2006, she led the library through a second major renovation and expansion. She is a former president of CLA and past president of the Capital Region Library Council. About her career at Windsor Public Library, Laura says: "For me, it's always been all about the people—the citizens who stop in with a smile and who are always willing to pitch in and help; the library staff and volunteers, who are a cool and accomplished bunch; the Windsor Library Association and the Library Advisory Board, two groups who always take a thoughtful approach to issues and who do the "right thing"; the rest of the Town of Windsor staff and elected officials who over the years have done so much to support the library and help it succeed. What a delightful slice of humanity they all are. It's been challenging; it's been fun, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Diane Kurtz is a crafter, both literally—with her adult program, Crafter's Circle—and figuratively. With limited resources, she made special things happen at the Bridgeport Public Library and as branch manager at the Old Mill Green Branch. A tech-savvy innovator who oversaw the branches' computers, Diane was also excited to experiment with Library 2.0 applications such as del.icio.us and flickr at OMG. She was the first librarian at BPL to use video gaming to help bridge the digital divide and attract children to the branch, keeping them active. Her after-hours teen gaming events remain unique in the library system, and the young people adore her for them. She also endeared herself to adult patrons through her helpfulness and kindness, and by taking care to ensure she always had the books they wanted. In special cases, she even delivered them to people's homes. Not only popular with patrons, Diane is beloved by her staff as a tremendous leader and friend.

Sharon Breslow, Bridgeport Public Library

Patrick McGlamery came to UConn as the map librarian almost 30 years ago. If you'll pardon the pun, he put the UConn Map Library on the map, almost single-handedly turning a one-person operation into an internationally recognized Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC). Along the way, he gave presentations all over North America—and in Jerusalem, Bangkok, Hanoi, Beijing, Zurich, Barcelona, Oslo, Budapest and Glasgow. Patrick has been honored with the ESRI Special Achievement Award in Geographic Information Systems, ALA's Map and Geography Roundtable Honors Award, the UConn Chancellor's Information Technology Award, and a Special Achievement Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Connecticut. He has consulted and taught digital library and geospatial information courses for the Simmons College GSLIS and



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A SALUTE TO DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

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served on the State of Connecticut Geospatial Council. In 2004, Patrick was appointed director of the library's IT services, which have improved significantly under his leadership. He has recruited quality, service-oriented staff and he leaves in place a high performing group that consistently delivers high quality IT services in a rapidly changing environment.

Brinley Franklin, UConn Libraries



Beverley Manning, humanities and sciences librarian at UConn's Harleigh B. Trecker Library (Greater Hartford Campus), retired on September 28, 2007 after 39 years of service to the university. An expert in technical services, Beverley grew into a number of new areas, including serving as the library's acting director during a transition period and also, in more recent years, its operations head.

In addition to being a subject liaison, Bev was Trecker's coordinator of collections services, a reference librarian and a highly regarded teacher of library and research skills. Her three books, *Index to American Women Speakers, 1828 to 1978* (Scarecrow Press, 1980), *We Shall Be Heard: An Index to Speeches by American Women, 1978 to 1985* (Scarecrow Press, 1985), and a recently completed history of Grace Episcopal Church in Newington have significantly added to the research universe. At her retirement party, Bev received an official statement from Governor Jodi Rell lauding her contributions to both state service and the library profession.

William Uricchio, Trecker Library, UConn

Mike Moran, director of library services at Asnuntuck Community College, retired from that position on June 30, 2008, to become director of library and information services at Bay Path College, Longmeadow, MA. Mike established the ACC Learning Resource Center in 1972 and devoted 36 years of his life to it. Past ACC President Harvey Irlen refers to it as the "showplace of Asnuntuck Community College." Mike was dedicated to serving the ACC and the local communities, but his reach extended to the entire state. He has presided over the Connecticut Community College Library Council and CRLC, and served as president of CLA and co-chair of CLA's Legislative Committee, among other offices. We always admired the way Mike was fully involved in the everyday activities of our library; he never worried about getting his hands a little dirty when it was necessary. He regarded the staff as colleagues, welcoming opinions and suggestions and treating us as a team. Mike's memory is phenomenal—not only for faces and names and dates, but also for music and theater and movies and politics. But perhaps most of all, Mike is a man of peace. He belongs to peace organizations and has a degree in peace studies. In the '70s he taught an ACC course on non-violence; during the '80s, he produced a video, "Is this Dreaming?" in which he interviewed well-known figures on nuclear disarmament, and in the '90s he developed and taught a course on international relations. I think it is his respect for his fellow human beings that keeps him so calm—and calming. Mike is one of a kind, and he will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues across Connecticut. Thank you, Mike, for taking what we had to say seriously, for all that you have taught us, and for giving so much of yourself to ACC and the Connecticut library community. And most of all, for just being you.

Beverly Himmelstein, Asnuntuck Community College



Frances Nadeau began working in CCSU's Burritt Library in 1991. As head of the curriculum lab, she maintained the viability of this educational resource and promoted the materials to the faculty in the School of Education and Professional Studies. Frances says that she is most gratified when helping students find materials that they can use for their projects.



Kathy Steadman, CCSU



Ann Osbon retired on June 27, 2008. She brought a fresh perspective to the Bridgeport Public Library when she became assistant city librarian. Her resilience, grace and personal dedication to providing quality service to the public and to the staff are rooted in her sunny disposition and optimistic attitude. Her willingness to tackle a job head-on is admirable, but comes with a price, as she may insist, "let's play a game" (carefully chosen to help break through whatever stumbling blocks are keeping the solution at bay). "What Your Favorite Hershey Miniature Reveals About Your Management Style" remains a staff favorite. Ann is as generous with her time and expertise as she is with her chocolate, and is particularly known for handling delicate personnel issues with sensitivity and compassion. Ann actively engages in learning, and may forward a website explaining urban spelunking, as often as one introducing a new library technology. Rock on, Ann!

Paula Keegan, Bridgeport Public Library

Ann B. Penfield, director of Haddam's Brainerd Memorial Library, retired on June 30, 2007, following a 40-year career as a librarian. Ann has, since her first library job in 1954, been unwavering in her commitment to democracy and intellectual freedom through a career of stellar achievements in librarianship, and has worked to establish Brainerd Memorial Library as the cultural centerpiece of Haddam. A very short list of her accomplishments includes grant writing and fundraising, upgrading the library's technology, improving its physical facilities, moving our database to LION, increasing programming for children and adults, expanding services and building collections. She has worked in a diplomatic and collaborative fashion with town officials and the voting public to secure yearly budget increases for the library. When I asked Ann what she felt her greatest achievement has been at Brainerd, she told me her particular pride and joy is the work she did to upgrade the library's collections, saying, "a

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A SALUTE TO DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

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library is only as good as its materials, and its willingness to service the public.” What has impressed me most about Ann is her ability to work collaboratively, to build a genuine team effort so the greater collective good of library work comes to the fore. Ann has made it a priority to empower her staff to do the very best work they can possibly do, and the staff’s achievements are simultaneously their own and hers. And the gold thread running through the tapestry of skill and service Ann has created has been her vibrant teaching about the fundamental importance of libraries to the quality of people’s lives. She has made it manifest that libraries stand for the essential necessity, intellectual and ethical value, and emotional meaning of knowledge and the human imagination.

Excerpted from a speech by Alexandra Burack, who was employed at Brainerd Library at the time this was written

Terry Rooney has retired after serving as executive director of the East Norwalk Library for more than ten years. “Terry is a man of many talents,” according to Kevin Emro president of the board of trustees. “The board has relied on Terry’s personality and capabilities to help steer and grow the East Norwalk Library,” he said. Terry also served as administrator of the Van Zilen Hall Community Room, a popular library and public event venue located on the library’s lower level. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and is well known for his activity as a leader in the Veterans Memorial Committee of the City of Norwalk. He is also Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus South Norwalk Council 1253.

Stan Siegel, East Norwalk Library



Judy Rossa started work as a children’s librarian at the Bridgeport Public Library’s North Branch in 1995. A hectic time when her natural ability and flexibility quickly became indispensable as staff explored newly expanded surroundings and services. Judy’s extensive experience with children and families and her dedication to providing quality service is coupled with that unique personality blend necessary to great library service: common sense and humor. She can share a silly book with 30 kindergartners, be direct and firm with groups of teens testing their limits, counsel elders having difficulty navigating the Internet, provide job search support to someone recently laid-off, or patiently track down a book, with the vaguest of

clues. Judy loves to learn, and is quick to share her expertise with colleagues. Her thoughtful, balanced opinions are often sought on library committees. A most valuable resource, she is not shy about sharing her insight. Thank goodness, because her friends will continue to seek it!

Paula Keegan, Bridgeport Public Library



Peter Salesses retired June 19, 2008, having served 30 years as library media director at Edwin O. Smith High School in Storrs. His career started as an audiovisual technician at Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, FL.

He completed his military service in Bien Hoa, Vietnam in 1970. Peter worked as an instructional aide at Belmont (MA) High School while completing his MA at Boston College. While there he participated in the Student Leadership Conference held at the University of New Hampshire, where he met his wife Susan. In the ’70s, he served as a media consultant at the RI Department of State Library Services in Providence. Peter’s career spanned changes in technology from lantern slides through computer networks. He has delighted in working with students of all levels. Retirement will include his family, fishing and travel.

Carol Schwartz, coordinator of information services at Bridgeport Public Library, earned her MLS at Simmons College. She has been a reference librarian and technology trainer at public libraries in Brooklyn (NY), Stamford and Bridgeport, where she became a casualty of layoffs due to budget cuts. Carol is very interested in collection development and led a collection development subcommittee at BPL. She is also an avid jazz fan and secretly sends snail mail to friends.

Eileen Sheridan retired from the Bridgeport Public Library on June 27. How does one capture 34 distinguished years in so little space? One doesn’t! To many in Bridgeport, Eileen, is the face of the library—whether initially as a newly minted children’s librarian, or later as the bookmobile librarian, or most recently in her role as coordinator of children’s and YA services. Never one to toot her own horn, Eileen has quietly but energetically pursued any initiative or grant to improve library services and collections and has worked in the community to bring parents and children to the library. Countless groups dedicated to the education of children cherish Eileen as a



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A SALUTE TO DEPARTING COLLEAGUES

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constant—always there for sage advice, creative solutions, familiarity with the community, and unflagging enthusiasm. These groups include the School Readiness Council, First Book, Success by Six, Bridgeport Alliance for Young Children including Lee Y Seras, the original Nutmeg Children's Book Award committee, the Urban Six (under Faith Hektoen), HCC's Early Lab School board, and various roundtables and groups through the CLSU's and CLA. Eileen was president of the School Volunteers Association when they started the annual Read Aloud Day program. "Alumni" of her early story hours proudly bring their own children (and even grandchildren) into the library to meet Miss Eileen. To her staff and colleagues, Eileen offers the wisdom of her experience, her deep knowledge of children's literature, the encouragement to explore new ideas, the humor to deal with all those "unexpecteds," and the support of a dear friend. Eileen Sheridan exemplifies traits that all librarians aspire to: vision, intelligence, professionalism, fairness, understanding and pure joy in what she does.

Bina Williams, Bridgeport Public Library



Carolyn Andrews Siedzik, children's librarian at the Hagaman Memorial Library in East Haven for 27 years, died on June 19, 2008. Carolyn actually started working in the library at 16 as a page and stayed through high school and most of college. Still, she tried other careers before settling on librarianship. She was quoted as saying that she should have realized being a librarian was inevitable since she grew up on Library Place in East Haven. She described herself as a child at heart and would do anything to involve kids in reading. She brought a singular wit and unmatched passion to her job that made the Children's Room a popular spot. She will be greatly missed by the staff and children of East Haven.

Ellen Gambini, Hagaman Library, East Haven

William "Bill" Simon died on May 26, 2008. Bill's imposing size was somewhat incongruous with his warm, friendly, gentle manner. He was a pleasure to work with—supportive, curious, hard-working. He worked as a part-time reference librarian at the Windsor Public Library after retiring from a career as a librarian in university, public, and corporation libraries. After receiving his MLS from Columbia University in 1955, he worked at Yale's Sterling

Memorial Library, the Bridgeport Public Library's business and technology department, and the Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation Library. He was the technical information supervisor of Nuclear Power Systems at Combustion Engineering. While working, he earned an MBA from Western New England College in 1964. He served on the boards of numerous library associations. An avid outdoorsman, he was active in the Boy Scouts and many civic organizations.

Judith Kronik, UConn Health Center Library

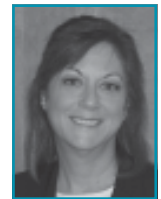


Jeanne Sohn was named director of CCSU's Burritt Library in the summer of 1989 and has led the library into the 21st century. One of her first assignments as director was to assist in acquiring a new online system that would support all four CSU campus libraries. That system, known as CONSULS, has been in use for the last 15 years and is still going strong, as is the cooperation among the four libraries. Jeanne says that CCSU is a very special place and she is fortunate to have had a fantastic job full of variety. She expressed satisfaction to have worked with wonderful people whose dedication to their profession has been honest and sincere. She will think of Central often, remembering her good years here.

Kathy Steadman, Burritt Library, CCSU

Joanne Turschman, the state library data coordinator, retired on June 30 after 31 years of service to the Connecticut State Library. Many public library directors know her as the maven of public library statistics. She guided and cajoled library directors through their annual survey but in return provided them with the specialized statistical information they needed to gain support for excellent public library service. Known for her kindness and professionalism, she provided personal service to librarians and board members across the state. Joanne also administered the Connecticutcard program, gently urging libraries to submit their data and having the pleasure of calculating the reimbursements that libraries receive. Before her tenure as the data coordinator she served as a law librarian at the State Library, work for which she was awarded two Governor's Service Awards for the enthusiasm, interest, dedication and patience she gave to each patron request. Her colleagues and friends at the State Library and around Connecticut wish her well in retirement.

Sharon Brettschneider, CT State Library



Thomas Wilsted director of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and head of Archives & Special Collections at UConn, retired on June 30, 2008 with over 30 years of experience in a variety of libraries, archives and historical agencies. Before coming to the Dodd Research Center in 1996, he was the associate director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming; director of the Salvation Army Archives; and manuscripts librarian at the National Library of New Zealand. His interests include helping institutions plan for and build archival facilities; he is the co-author of *Managing Archives and Manuscripts Repositories* for the Society of American Archivists, and the author of *Planning New and Remodeled Archival Facilities*. Other areas of focus include partnerships, grant writing, fund raising, public programming and long-range planning. Tom received his BA in History from Kalamazoo College and his MA from the University of Wisconsin, majoring in American History with emphasis on the Civil War. He is a certified archivist by the Academy of Certified Archivists. ■



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July/August 2008 • Volume 50, Number 7

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You Speak, CLA Listens

To provide another outlet for feedback on CLA's annual conference, Alice Knapp, David Kapp, Doug Lord, and Steve Cauffman coordinated an online survey, announced through the Conntech, CLC, and Good Night Moon email lists. The survey remained open from May 9 to June 20. Of 281 useable responses, 189 responses came from people who attended the conference; 92 came from people who did not.

Those who attended...Of the 189 conference attendees who took the survey, 162 (85.7%) were librarians; 24 (12.7%) were library staff members; and 3 (1.6%) listed themselves as 'other.' Public libraries were well represented: 143 (75.7%) were from public libraries; 26 (13.8%) from academic; 9 (4.8%) from special; and 11 (5.8%) from 'other.' Most respondents were 50 or older: 9 (4.8%) were under 30; 33 (17.5%) were 30-40; 41 (21.7%) were 41-50; 89 (47.1%) were 51-60; and 17 (9%) were over 60. Eight (4.2%) were minority.

Of the 189 attendees, 135 (71.4%) were CLA members. Of the 53 non-members, 22 plan to join in the coming year.

Why attend? To get fresh ideas for patron services was the most important reason for 109 attendees. General professional development was the most important for 106 attendees, while keeping current with technology was most important for 92 people.

The three-day conference was one day longer than past CLA conferences. A total of 121 (64%) either liked or didn't mind the new format; 48 (25.4%) liked the 3-day format; and 73 (38.6%) had no preference. 64 (33.9%) preferred a two-day conference, while 4 (2.1%) wanted a one-day conference.

And those who did not attend...Of the 92 respondents who did not attend the conference, 76 (82.6%) were librarians; 12 (13%) were library

staff members; and 4 (4.3%) listed themselves as 'other.' Public libraries were well represented; 59 (64.1%) were from public libraries; 20 (21.7%) from academic; 4 (4.3%) from special; 3 (3.3%) from school; and 6 (6.5%) from 'other.' The majority of non-attendees were also 50 or older; 4 (4.3%) were under 30; 14 (15.2%) were 30-4; 26 (28.3%) were 41-50; 37 (40.2%) were 51-60; and 11 (12%) were over 60. Eleven (12%) were minority.

Of the 93 non-attendees, 48 (52.2%) were CLA members. Of the 44 who were not, 13 said they plan to joins in the coming year.

Why didn't they attend? "Programs were not relevant to their interests" was the most reason offered by 40 non-attendees. Thirty-two "could not spare the time," 29 said "the location was too far away," 20 said "it was too expensive for their budget," 16 "were not members of CLA," and 9 said "they were not allowed to go or received no support from their library to attend."

To entice them to attend, 56 said "add programs that were more relevant to their interests," 31 said "lower the cost," 3 said that "nothing would make them attend," and 17 had other reasons, primarily "hold the conference at a more convenient location."

If they had gone, the most important reasons for attending mirrored the reasons given by those who did attend. To get fresh ideas for patron services was the most important for 55 people. To stay current with technology was most important for 47, and general professional development was most important for 42 people.

Regarding the three-day format, 15 (16.3%) liked it and 47 (51.1%) had no preference, for a total of 62 (67.4%) who either liked the three-day or had no preference; 23 (25%) preferred a two-day conference, while 7 (7.6%) wanted a one-day conference. ■