

CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

A Publication of
the Connecticut
Library
Association

NELLS 2008

*Reports from Connecticut's
Participants in NELA's Third
Library Leadership Symposium*

Introduction

by Mary Etter

The New England Library Association launched NELLS, the New England Library Leadership Symposium, in 2003. NELA (Past) Presidents Cheryl Bryan and Lucy Gangone had proposed the idea after attending a workshop for leaders of library consortia and had studied the Tall Texans leadership conference, a well-established and excellent model for our program. Later, the NELA Executive Board and attendees at a summer "Counterparts" event heard presentations by Texans Kathryn Deiss and Pat Smith, who explained in detail the excellent results TLA had realized by training small groups of "emerging leaders" in intensive retreat settings. Providing training for mid-career library workers who represent the next wave of leadership seemed a perfect match for NELA's unique role as a regional library organization, drawing strength from the six active associations in its sphere.

How does the program work? NELA, with financial support from the six

New England state library associations, organizes a four-day summer retreat with a primary instructor, and mentors from each of the states. Mentors are selected based on their experience in the state organizations, as well as their representation of different areas of librarianship. Successful applicants (equal numbers from each state and NELA "at large") are selected from library professionals, paraprofessionals, or volunteers with 3-15 years of experience. The application process is rigorous, including questions the applicant must answer and references from colleagues familiar with the applicant's leadership skills. Participants pay a tuition fee, sometimes partly offset by the scholarships offered by the state organizations. A portion of the symposium is set aside for visits by representatives of the associations,

since one purpose of NELLS is to develop the skills of those who are ready for more active roles in library organizations.

The third NELLS program took place in July 2008, at the Rolling Ridge Conference Center in North Andover, Massachusetts. Reports from three Connecticut participants follow. (Our fourth student, Julian Aiken, filed his report as last month's "Obversion" column.) The next symposium is scheduled for 2010, so while your curiosity is piqued, take a moment to look at the NELLS information listed under "Resources" on the NELA website www.nelib.org and start a file for your application now! ■

Mary Etter is Connecticut's representative to the NELA Executive Board.



Connecticut's contingent at the 2008 New England Library Leadership Symposium, from left: Betsy Bray, co-chair; Mike Moran, mentor; and students Gail Zeiba, Julian Aiken, Beth Crowley and Patricia Valsecchi

An Offer You Can't Refuse

by Patricia Valsecchi

It was a dark and stormy week. Well, actually, it was one of the sunniest weeks of the summer, and I had the pleasure of spending it at the 2008 New England Library Leadership Symposium. What is NELLS? That was my first question when I was approached about applying. I quickly learned that it was an opportunity that doesn't come along very often. With

Continued on page 10

OBVERSION

Classic Avoidance

Mr. Laidlaw's weekly writing assignment: Write about a famous person you admire. Industrious fifth-grader that I was, I forgot. Friday I scrawled an essay on the life of Harriet Tubman, based on a CBS docudrama aired Thursday. Harriet's name escaped me but not the name of the actor. Mr. Laidlaw never said a word about my narrative of Ruby Dee's exploits as an escaped slave. I never asked. I *did* learn not to base reports on movies.

Students still seek cinematic short cuts through literature. I regularly get requests for "a movie of (fill in the name of your least favorite work of literature)," complete with sad puppy dog eyes and pitiful mewling sounds

Time was, my initial reaction was unsympathetic and two-fold: 1) You are a lazy kid, and 2) I had to suffer through *The Scarlet Letter* and so should you. Now, I am more likely to say, "Oh, I am so sorry. Have a cookie." It's irony informed by sympathy.

Many of the required classics are, let's face it, pure suck. *Writing* about them is torture. How much more can be written about Gatsby, the Snopes,



Michele Jacobson

Catherine and Heathcliff and all the other usual suspects? Am I the only one who wants to slap Emma Bovary, Lily Bart or Martha Quest until their heads spin like Linda Blair's? Am I the only one wondering why so many male characters are jerks? Nieland Archer! Get a spine, marry the countess and accept the consequences. Heathcliff! Freddie Krueger cuts a more romantic figure than you. Julien Sorel! You're as mean as the father you left behind and you deserved to be beheaded.

That doesn't mean I didn't enjoy reading about all of these people. Julien's casual cruelties made *The Red and the Black* worth reading twice. Mr. Rochester's idiocy inspired me to read *Jane Eyre* eight times. They are tragic and flawed, and I love them, but that doesn't forgive their lack of common sense.

So we come to the least loveable literary character in history, the meanest, most self-centered man to sail the sea—Ahab. My dirty little secret: I graduated as an American Lit major without ever reading *Moby Dick*. Not even the Cliff

Continued on page 3

BOOKS LOOKING AT

Special Topics in Calamity Physics

by Marisha Pessl (Viking, 2006)

Don't be intimidated by the title! This is *not* a physics text. It's a novel. You don't need to know the difference between a quark and a muon. However, be warned; there will be a test at the end of the book.

Blue van Meer is a teenage girl who has been raised by her father. Gareth van Meer lost his wife, his one true love, when Blue was very young. Father and daughter are gifted, intelligent people who do not quite fit the roles society has created for an academician and a teenager.

Gareth is an Ivy League PhD whose brilliant research and highly acclaimed first book earned him an enviable reputation early in his career. Rather than settling into a professorship at a prestigious institution of higher learning, Gareth cannot commit to one institution. He lives by contracting semester-long assignments as a visiting professor, or even shorter "gigs" as a guest lecturer, and by writing for scholarly journals. Gareth is strikingly handsome, with a knack for attracting "June Bugs," a term Blue coined for unmarried women who throw themselves at her father. June Bug affairs are inevitably short-lived and usually end unhappily for the women who want more commitment than Gareth is willing to make. In contrast, Gareth is devoted to Blue, grooming her to be a high school valedictorian and a Harvard graduate.

Gareth's peripatetic lifestyle means that Blue never has the opportunity to become part of any one school. The one constant in her life is her father. She has been shaped by his lifestyle, his ideas, and their conversations about books and movies. Blue has read widely. Her knowledge of the written word and cinema is such that she footnotes virtually every event in her life with a page number reference to a book or journal article or to a scene from a movie.



Marisha Pessl presents the novel through Blue's eyes and has organized Blue's first-person narrative into chapters bearing the titles of books the girl has read. This device tempts the reader to relate the contents of each chapter to the theme of the book for which the chapter is named. A librarian will admire Blue's remarkable literacy but will also note that her understanding of life comes more from books than from personal experience.

Blue's life undergoes a major shift at age 16. Gareth announces that he has selected a private high school at which Blue will spend

her *entire* senior year. Before classes begin, Blue attracts the attention of Hannah Schneider, a film teacher. Thanks to Hannah's intervention, Blue becomes a somewhat reluctant member of a circle of "in" students known as the "blue bloods." Her relationship with the handful of blue blood teens is a tenuous one, dependent more on Hannah's support than on genuine camaraderie with her peers.

Blue has never had the opportunity to become popular, so her inclusion in this group puzzles her. She participates in Hannah's Sunday dinners with the blue bloods, though she never feels quite comfortable about her status in the group. When Blue discusses her misgivings about the blue bloods with Hannah, the teacher reassures her and tells Blue the sad story behind each of the blue blood youths, asking her to respect their confidentiality. Now more sympathetic, Blue is determined to be a better friend to her teen peers.

Special Topics is a "coming of age" novel and a mystery involving two deaths. The authorities rule the first fatality an accident and the second a suicide. However, following the second death, which Blue came close to witnessing, she

Continued on page 11



Vince Juliano
Book Review Editor

OBVERSION

Continued from page 2

Notes. I tried. But after “Call me Ishmael,” my eyes glazed over; I’d wonder what was on TV and pretty soon I’d be asleep. I skated through Faulkner, Fitzgerald and Hemingway.

Melville and his whale made me wish he’d chosen another career. Fry chef maybe. I don’t know why I hate *Moby*. *Bartleby* was fascinating and *Billy Budd* touchingly heroic. Those stories spoke to me. Not the whale.

Then NPR ran a piece about the Moby Dick fan club. Members have read the book countless times. They have seen the Gregory Peck movie (not the Patrick Stewart sham) countless more. They take trips on whaling boats and role-play. The passion with which they spoke forced me to try again.

On my “101 Things to Do Before I Die” list, Number 70 is “Read *Moby Dick*.” I am more likely to accomplish goal 100 (Be declared a National Treasure) first. I modified the list to “Watch *Moby Dick*.”

Melville takes myriad detours into the “how-to” genre. Huge chunks of research fall out of the pages, distracting from plot. We get a paragraph of story, followed by three chapters on where to stay if you go whaling in New Bedford, a hint of Ahab’s emotional problems, and five chapters on rendering whale fat. A fellow student opined that if all the “how-to” chapters were removed, *Moby Dick* would be a readable 50 pages.

Surely, screenwriter Ray Bradbury had found a way to render Moby’s fat to two watchable hours. Surely, young Richard Basehart would be amusing as Ishmael. Surely Gregory Peck was worth watching any time. And...I didn’t remember a thing after “Call me Ishmael.” I had to rewind and start from scratch the following night. I admired Bradbury’s version of Melville’s dialogue. The scenery was detailed, the action non-stop. Queequeg was both amusing and lovable. Gregory Peck was breathtaking. The writing was top notch, the acting superb. It was a cinematic achievement.

And I kept thinking, “Is there paint somewhere I could be watching dry?” The ending was emotionally exhausting, but it was a long voyage. I suffered through the very bad Ice Pirates and survived. I still can’t enjoy one of the greatest films of all time. I’ve edited my “101 Things to do Before I Die” list, penciling in, “Try reading *Moby Dick* again.” It is number 102. Right after, “Read all books on the 100 Best Books List.”

Michele Jacobson is the YA librarian at Bridgeport Public Library.

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.



FROM
THE

PRESIDENT



Kathy Leeds

Politics: The process by which groups of people make decisions that affect others' lives.

You can probably think of other, more emotionally charged and sometimes less-than-savory definitions for politics. But I prefer this one—particularly at this time of year. Both major candidates for the Presidency speak about how much they care for “ordinary Americans” and both acknowledge that the policies they espouse will have an impact on the day-to-day lives of millions of people.

We may sometimes view our political system as unresponsive to the needs and wishes of citizens and, in very dark moments, our representatives as corrupt and self-serving. But in the vast majority of cases, folks in government are trying to do the best they can, sorting out priorities and making often difficult decisions that can profoundly affect the lives of their constituents.

What has this to do with Connecticut libraries? Well, I had the privilege of meeting our CLA lobbyist, Bobby Shea, last month and realized once more that we (library staff, trustees, Friends, stakeholders of all sorts) need to become dramatically more involved in the political process that affects our lives and the lives of our users. Rather than thinking of our governmental partners and their power as something stoically to endure, we need to embrace the idea that politicians can be the prism for our passion to serve.

Heaven knows, library lovers are full of passion. What we often lack is knowledge of how to turn that passion into productive political influence. As Bobby spoke with our group, listening intently to our agenda of needs and hopes, he provided just that focus we needed to hone our thinking and make it resonate for our legislative representatives. Beyond that, he thrilled us with the idea of advocacy and convinced us anew that we are articulate, connected, and powerful spokespeople with a mission and a message that can succeed. Bobby represents our interests in Hartford, but we are the essential advocates for achieving our own success.

Connecticut libraries are blessed with a collaborative spirit that can and has translated into bottom-line savings for the state. We have proven with reQuest, Connecticar, Connecticard, iCONN, and InfoAnytime—managed and/or purchased through the Connecticut Library Consortium and the Connecticut State Library—that working together not only makes sense, but it also saves money. Connecticut’s state budget includes a very modest amount to pay for cooperative library purchasing or collaborative library services, but the effect of that funding is multiplied at the local level, resulting in very significant economies.

Advocacy is less a chore and more a pleasure when the message you bring is one that not only expresses your passion but also resonates with your listeners. We need to talk to our local representatives now—in advance of the budget process for our towns and cities and the state. We need to invite them to come see what we do with the funds they entrust to us. We need to build relationships and familiarity today so that the difficult financial times ahead don’t automatically spell disaster for our institutions tomorrow. And also, we need to listen to them and think in terms of their perspective—one that is broad and complicated by competing and sometimes conflicting needs.

Chances are, there is something you are doing right now that warrants an invitation to your major donor, chancellor, mayor, principal, first selectman, state representative or senator, or governor. (Photo-ops are always welcome!) Make a call, send a note or email; give those who hold sway over your finances the ammunition they need to come to your defence when times get tough. They can be advocates rather than adversaries if you let them know how efficient and effective your operation is. It’s harder to say ‘no’ to friends whose efforts you respect than to strangers you view as marginally important in the grand scheme of things.

So, I leave you with two charges this month: 1) Get out and vote, of course; the decisions made on November 4 will affect the lives of millions. 2) Beyond that, put a call or note to one or all of your local governmental representatives on your agenda. It could affect the lives of hundreds or thousands in your community. If you need help with an address or phone number, visit www.cga.ct.gov/maps/Townlist.asp. I’ll be doing both, I promise!

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

HIGHLIGHTS

President Kathy Leeds reported that Gail Zeiba is moving to England and has resigned her position as co-chair of the Children's Section. Beth Crowley (Groton PL) will succeed Gail, serving as co-chair with Caitlin Augusta (Darien PL).

Treasurer Alison Wang noted that current receipts from dues are only at one-third the amount budgeted. The need to increase CLA membership was discussed.

VP/President Elect Randi Ashton Pritting reported that she and Kathy Leeds met with Gayle Bogel and David Blimes of CASL to discuss a joint annual conference with CLA. Gayle commented that CASL is enthusiastic about a joint conference. CASL's 2008 conference is scheduled for November 10 in Cromwell.

CCALD Randi Ashton Pritting moved that CLA invite a member of the Connecticut Coalition of Academic Library Directors to serve as a non-voting liaison on the CLA Board. Motion approved.

CLA Lobbyist Carl Antonucci moved renewal of Atty. Robert Shea's contract as CLA lobbyist at \$9,000 per year. Motion approved.

CLC Chris Bradley announced that CLC would offer downloadables through Overdrive. CLC will kickoff OCLC training with "Google Advanced Tools," September 30-October 1.

CSL Sharon Brettschneider distributed a report highlighting Mother Goose on the Loose, a research-based program for babies and toddlers; WebJunction's new look and new online course catalog; and an episode of History Detectives was filmed recently at the State Library.

Conference 2009 Alice Knapp and Janet Woycik reported that the conference theme would be "Menu for Success." Programs will be organized in tracks: Youth, Technology, Management, and Public Services.

Editorial Kathy Leeds reported that CLA has contracted with a graphic designer to update the look of *Connecticut Libraries*. ALA has asked for permission to mount two recent articles from *CL* on their website. David Kapp is looking for people willing to appear in *CL*'s membership testimonial ads.

Friends Carl Nawrocki reported that FOCL has launched its annual membership campaign and distributed application forms to current members.

Grants Chris Bradley presented the recommendations of the committee: 1) \$500 to Connecticut Children's Book Festival, 2) \$200 to co-sponsor the First Amendment Rock Off, 3) \$1,000 for an Emerging Leaders Scholarship, awarded to Jaime Hammond. Grants approved as recommended. A request for financial support of CT Humanities Council's 60th anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was denied.

Membership Stan Siegel reported that 75 individuals have joined CLA or renewed their membership within the last 30 days.

NELA Mary Etter reminded the board of the NELA Conference, October 19-21 in Manchester, NH.

Public Libraries Mary Engels is soliciting nominations for the Excellence in Public Library Service Awards. Deadline for nominations is October 31.

Region 3 Siobhan Grogan announced: Hispanic Heritage Week at Cragin Memorial Library, featuring Peruvian cooking demonstrations and a concert; ECSU library, Ledyard PL and the Public Library of New London are recipients of "Connecting to Collections" grants.

Region 4 Kathy Leeds reported: Danbury PL and WCSU are partnering on "One Book, One Community" with *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri; Newtown's Cyrenius H. Booth Library summer book sale earned over \$100,000; Westport PL announced the Rabbit Hill Festival of Literature, October 23-25.

Region 5 Maribeth Breen announced: Westbrook PL will reopen their renovated facility on September 16; Guilford Free Library will reopen September 5 with a grand opening celebration October 25; Russell Library is hosting a film noir series; Henry Carter Hull Library is hosting "From Behind the Lens," an exhibition series from professional photographers.

Region 6 Theresa Conley reported on the book launch at Lyme PL for Jim Benn's new novel, *Blood Alone*, named Book Page's Mystery of the Month.

CLA FALL MEETINGS

Fees & Registrations details at
www.ctlibraryassociation.org/calender.htm

Podcasts and Videos

*New Instruction Techniques to Reach
The Academic iPod Generation*

Friday, October 24, Wallingford Public Library
9:30 Registration/Coffee, 10:00-Noon Program

Sponsor:

College and University Library Section

A Panel Presentation With: Debra Herman, Digital Resources Librarian & Electronic Resources Information Services Manager, CCSU; **Ramona Islam**, Reference Librarian & Instruction Coordinator, Fairfield University; **Susan Slaga**, Reference Librarian, CCSU; **Lei Wang**, Instructional Design Librarian, Cushing-Whitney Medical Library, Yale.

Open Source ILS Technical Showcase

November 6, Windsor Public Library
9:00 Registration/coffee, 9:30-3:30 Program

Sponsor: CLA Technical Services Section

FEATURING Joshua Ferraro from Koha/LibLime and Rob Karen from Waldo and others (including Evergreen) who are either developers of open source ILS's or have implemented them in their libraries.

Expand Your Horizons with A Touch of CLASS

CLA Support Staff Annual Conference
November 7

Middlesex Community College, Middletown

SESSIONS Crafting a Press Release/Publicity Program, A/V Cataloging, Hands-on Software Training, Wiki while you Work, Humor in the Workplace, Better Searching using Google, Childrens/Teens Readers Advisory, a Gardening Reference session presented by a CT Master Gardener and much, much more.

Keynote Speaker Gene Kinnaly "Lessons Learned: Three Decades at the Library of Congress"

Why Teens Should Read Realistic Fiction with Alex Flinn

Monday, November 17, 9:30 - 4:00
West Hartford Public Library
Sponsor: Young Adult Section

Alex Flinn is a former attorney whose fascination with witness reliability and bias led her to write *Fade to Black* and other ALA Award-winning books for young adults: *Breathing Underwater*, *Breaking Point*, and *Nothing to Lose*.

I was first charmed by this hidden gem of a research facility when I volunteered my time as a URI MLIS graduate student. My assignment was to input data from old newspaper clippings, utilizing software obtained with a Connecticut Humanities Council grant. I was to write an abstract and select keywords. More keywords, more access.

The research center seemed timelessly located in a veritable Brigadoon. John DeGolia and his wife Jo Lynn had come all the way from Batavia, New York, and found Old Mystic again, their second visit in a week. Their destination was a research library situated in this quiet rural village with its shady lanes and historic New England homes, with a little river running through it and the old mill site just down the road, with the local post office and general store and small white church, and with a modest bank building, centrally located, now housing the Indian & Colonial Research Center (ICRC). The center is only open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and was closed on their first visit.

John and Jo Lynn's ancestors (Chesbro, Watrous, Latham) came from the Mystic area, and it was nothing less than their heritage that the couple sought. They were glad they persevered. The early photograph they discovered revealed a wealth of relatives seated along front porch steps.



Photograph printed from a glass plate negative in the Elmer Waite Collection, ICRC

Tribal members of the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mohegans also have been frequent visitors. A collection of Native American research materials, accumulated from years of earlier investigations, is here and ready to be shared. One especially charming and informative booklet, *Our Pequot Past*, was produced by young people participating in the 1992 Youth Training Program on the Mashantucket Pequot reservation.

The ICRC is housed in a quaint 19th century building, the former Mystic National Bank, chartered in 1833 as the Mystic Bank, one of the

oldest financial institutions in America. This structure, built in 1856, was the bank's second home. (The original was relocated to Mystic Seaport.)

In 1965, the then vacant building was sold to the newly incorporated

ICRC for one dollar by the town of Stonington. The red brick building still has barred windows and a seriously fortified front door. Inside, it boasts a massive walk-in vault. Yet, with its new cobblestone entry and newly re-pointed brickwork, it is totally welcoming, utterly charming—for all that it is a veritable fortress of yesteryear. The treasure it now houses is a library of history, our past preserved. Most of it is the legacy of one woman's lifetime work.

In August 1920, when women won their constitutional right to vote, Eva Lutz Butler (1897-1969) was celebrating her first wedding anniversary. She met Yale graduate Sylvester Benjamin Butler in 1916 when she was a high school senior in Pleasantville, New Jersey. He was the new high school history and algebra teacher. Miss Lutz was an original, an outstandingly talented and bright young woman 'with a future.'

Sylvester joined the Army in 1917, during World War I. The two corresponded. When the soldier returned, he proposed. They married on August 4, 1919, and a year later a son was born. Sewall was their only child, and Eva was able to combine childrearing with her scholarly studies.

Sylvester soon went on to earn a graduate degree at Columbia University. Eva, now a young mother, worked for the Industrial Arts Cooperative, researching and writing about the Manhattan Indians. Eventually the young family settled in Connecticut where, in 1928, Mr. Butler began his life's career as the superintendent of schools for Groton. Eva continued to pursue her study of Indians, with a special interest in Southeastern Connecticut's Pequot and Mohegan tribes.



The Indian and Colonial Research Center occupies the former home of the Mystic National Bank, built in 1856.

One Woman's Legacy

Eva Lutz Butler, and the Indian & Colonial Research Center, Old Mystic, Connecticut

by Karen Stevens



Eva Lutz Butler

Continued on page 6

ONE WOMAN'S LEGACY

Continued from page 5

"I was thrilled with the opportunity to find out about Indians," she wrote. "I knew something about Indians—almost all the wrong things. I had just gotten over the belief that they all lived in beautiful painted teepees, rode about in birch bark canoes, wore feathered headdresses, etc. and believed that now I would see for myself. There were very few Indians left in Connecticut, I soon found out. Most of them lived the way we did.



Around the Pond is one of several books Eva Lutz Butler wrote and illustrated for children.

A few were proud of being Indians, but many were ashamed of the fact that they had Indian Ancestry."

Eva avoided biased old histories and believed in knowledge derived from personal investigative research in primary sources. She joined in some of the area's first native archaeological excavations. She also studied at the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of New

Mexico, where she expanded her research to embrace western native cultures. She worked at the Abbe Museum in Maine, continuing her ethnological pursuits. Eventually, she earned her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946.

Having settled in an area steeped in colonial history, with many old homes, families and traditions, she also delved into early original records, an investigation that blossomed exponentially in advance of Connecticut's 1935 tercentenary celebration. Butler's focus was the period before the American Revolution, her emphasis ever on primary rather than secondary sources. She produced an authoritative map of early local homesteads. From at least 1949 until 1953, she taught extension courses out of her home to Willimantic State College (now Eastern Connecticut State University) students.

A born teacher, in and out of the classroom, she also taught young children, producing booklets with clear graphics and simple, but never simplistic, lessons. She was always willing to share what she knew as an ethnologist and local historian.

Butler's dedicated investigations into the history of native and colonial people resulted in more than 2,000 loose-leaf notebooks of priceless but unpublished research. These have been categorized at ICRC into broad subject areas: Indian (blue notebooks), Genealogy (red notebooks), Town and County Records & Miscellaneous Colonial Notebooks (black notebooks). Researchers are asked to cite these materials as "Unpublished papers of Eva L. Butler,



Eva Butler's unpublished research fills more than 2,000 loose-leaf notebooks in the ICRC collection.

Indian and Colonial Research Center, Inc., Old Mystic, Ct." Butler's personal book collection was sizable as well.

Researchers and genealogists deem the ICRC a valuable resource. It is listed among the "Genealogical Societies Incorporated or Authorized to Do Business or Conduct Affairs in Connecticut." Native American artifacts including arrowhead collections, pottery, beadwork, and basketry are on display. Old maps and manuscripts; rare American school books; newspaper clippings; a Northampton book of 18th century sermons; old photographs, including the Elmer Waite collection with original glass plate negatives of local subjects; postcards; oral history tapes—all are cataloged and indexed waiting to be discovered by researchers.

It was after a heart attack in April 1964 that Eva Butler realized her research and collections should not remain inaccessible in her home. Friends and family agreed that the vacant bank building in the center of town offered a perfect location for keeping her collections and research



Indian beadwork purse:
Beckner Collection, ICRC

available to the public. Eva died in January 1969. Her life's work survives. For a woman who believed in primary research material over the bias and frequent errors inherent in secondary resources, she has left a proud legacy for the future.

The Indian and Colonial Research Center has operated for years with the committed enthusiasm of volunteers. Funding is derived mostly through membership fees augmented occasionally by grants for specific projects. Board President Joan Cohn is hands-on, graciously present whenever the doors are open. Kathleen Greenhalgh was the first librarian; Michael Spellmon is today's dedicated administrative librarian, doing prodigious work, especially with computerized programs. He assists with genealogical research and local history projects. Talented URI intern, Lisa Sheley, is a welcome infusion of youthful enthusiasm and up-to-date library and archival training. Gloria Fowler, a volunteer with a background in newsletter graphic design, has

Continued on page 7

ONE WOMAN'S LEGACY

Continued from page 6

recently come on board, and long-time volunteer Adella Backus tirelessly indexes items new and old.

These dedicated volunteers are stretched to keep up with a workload that ever increases. Recently, *New London Day* columnist David Collins wrote an impassioned article entitled, "Past is in danger of losing its future," and "Crucible of local history needs a rescuer." His article started with the statement "Someone needs to come to the rescue of the Indian & Colonial Research Center."

This valiant group of supporters continues to seek ways to preserve Butler's valuable work. For years, negotiations with the Mohegan Tribe promised a plan for sustaining funds for the ICRC, but an accord could not be reached. UConn's Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center was interested in the artifacts but did not have space for the book and notebook collections, nor could they offer monetary assistance. Another possibility explored was merging research interests with Middletown's Godfrey Memorial Library. Connecticut legislators have made visits to investigate state support. The pursuit of grant funding continues unabated. The ICRC recently obtained a grant to upgrade software that will allow it to digitize its holdings and optimize public access to its information.

"There's no more free lunch," an advisor from the Heritage Programs of the Connecticut Humanities Council declared at a recent conference. The ICRC agrees. A new sign posted on the premises and on the ICRC website reads: "As of August 1, 2008, there will be a research fee for any phone or email request that requires staff more than 15 minutes to fulfill. The cost for each hour after the initial 15 minutes is \$20 for

non-members and \$15 for members. Photocopies are 50 cents for standard size, 75 cents for legal size and \$1.00 for ledger size."

Impossible odds have been successfully challenged in the past. Holding aloft a thick manila folder of Internet requests for information, Joan Cohn, volunteer board president for nearly two decades, beamed, "Responses are coming in from as far away as Australia." Although the solid little red brick building stands on a modest plot of land, perhaps its future lies in the expansion of its walls—its virtual walls.

The ICRC is located at 39 Main Street in Old Mystic and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 4:00 and by appointment; call 860-536-9771. Visit online at www.theicrc.org. All photographs in this article are courtesy of the ICRC. ■



ICRC Board President Joan Cohn (right) shows the author one of the Indian baskets in the ICRC collection.

The Indian & Colonial Research Center is part of the real world, with real world challenges. But when the mist rises off the nearby Mystic River, a magical sense of possibility and hope rises with it. Today, the quaint little village of Old Mystic, with the unique resources of the ICRC, continues valiantly to survive the test of time.

Karen Stevens has worked in several Connecticut libraries and has served as a trustee on her local library board. She lectures on aspects of vanishing Americana, and has a special interest in the local histories, legends, and tales associated with Connecticut libraries. She lives in Scotland and can be reached at librlady@gmail.com.

Friends Making Friends

October 18, Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester
October 28, Trumbull Public Library
9:30 Coffee, 10:00-12:00 Program both days
Sponsored by Friends of CT Libraries
Details at www.cslib.org/foc.



It Takes Two to Tango

ACLB Annual Leadership Conference
Friday, October 31, Waters Edge, Westbrook
Details and registration at www.aclb.org.

What is the most critical issue for your library in the next five years?

Inadequate space	82
Inadequate budget	76
Too few staff	71
Internet competition	17
Big-box bookstores competition	2

Based on 248 responses to a survey announced on the Conntech e-mail list, March 2008.

Are you right-handed or left-handed? (Thanks to Vicky Chase, Newington PL, for suggesting)

Righty	198
Lefty	40
Ambidexterous	14

Based on 252 responses to a survey announced on the Conntech e-mail list, March 2008.



TECHNOLOGY

When Bad Things Happen *Are computing services included in your disaster recovery plan?*



Bruce Johnston

I didn't have to think twice when considering what to write for my column this month, and for *CL's* Technology Issue next month. Given the circumstances, I would be hard pressed to write about anything else. It all started when a Trojan virus attack on our computers brought the entire library operation to a screeching halt, and initiated a recovery effort that is ongoing more than a month later. In Part 1 of this article, I will describe how sudden and complete this disruption of services was and how we responded to it. In Part 2, in November, I will share some thoughts about what can be learned from the event, highlighting the value of including computing services as part of your library's disaster recovery plan.

We were attacked on a Thursday morning during the summer session. Thankfully, very few students or faculty were present on campus. I usually arrive shortly after the library opens at 8:00 a.m. As I walked in the front door, the person who opened the library stopped me in my tracks and said I had to look at something *right now!* I knew this had to be bad, but I had no idea how widespread the problem had already become.

What I saw was not pretty. It was no longer possible to log in to the circulation desk computers, either with the generic student account, or with a staff account. The computer presented a login prompt as usual, and even initiated the startup sequence when you entered your ID and password. Then, just as the desktop shortcuts began to appear, the computer spontaneously initiated a logoff sequence, bringing you right back to the login prompt. This was the case with every computer that had been logged off at the circulation desk. As the morning progressed, I learned that the problem affected staff computers and those at other service points as well.

Some library staff initially had a little luck. If a person had left a computer logged in and locked overnight, it resumed working when the person logged into the machine and unlocked it. Their computers might still be infected, but several users had a final chance to back up data to a flash drive or network simply because they hadn't logged off the night before. For those who had logged off or shut down their computers, there was nothing to be done. They would never again see their desktop computer as they had left it, and any data that wasn't backed up was gone.

The rest of day was spent in an attempt to identify the malicious code and to remove it from a contaminated computer. The library's computer support specialist, working along with the university's IT security specialist, was successful with the first part, but was unable to actually restore an infected

computer. At the end of the day, it appeared that the only thing to be done was to completely wipe clean and re-image the infected computers.

Computer imaging begins with a single computer being prepared and configured with the desired software and settings for the environment. Next, an "image," or copy of the computer's configuration is uploaded to a server. The server can then deploy that image to a group of computers—as long as they all share the same hardware. This saves you from manually installing and configuring every software package on each of those computers. It takes about as long to deploy an image to a single computer as it does to install an operating system from a CD-ROM, but since multiple computers can be re-imaged at the same time, you save progressively more time as the number of computers increases.

Computer imaging is extremely efficient for maintaining a large number of identical computers; unfortunately not every computer can be exactly the same. A shared image is a good start, delivering all of the common software in the environment, but in addition you have unique software and settings that must be prepared for each user. These needs include selecting the printer for the computer, installing software used only by specific users (for which you don't have site-wide licensing), and configuring local computer accounts for shared computers. In the end, there is still a great deal of work to be done to individual computers, even if the basic image gives you a head start.

As we were poised to begin a wide scale computer re-imaging effort, we were confronted with some troubling questions. Where did the virus come from? How was it spread, and why was the library the only campus area affected? Would the problem immediately re-propagate itself if the computers were restored and reintroduced to the network?

While there was some uncertainty, we did have some information to work with in planning our recovery effort. We could identify whether a computer was infected or not by viewing a specific registry entry that the infection modified. With this information, we identified a small number of computers that were not infected. The presence of unaffected computers in the environment was at least a little encouraging, so an updated computer image was prepared with current anti-virus and anti-spyware software to be deployed to the infected computers. We would then hope for the best.

Bruce Johnston is the systems librarian at Eastern Connecticut State University.

In January 2006 I learned, through an IFLA listserv that posts international opportunities for librarians, that the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) in the Galapagos Islands was seeking volunteers for its library.

Thinking that this prospect for international library service would make for an excellent sabbatical leave proposal, I applied to the librarian and head of biological sciences at the CDRS. After several introductory emails and receipt of my resume, CDRS personnel said, "Yes, please come. We can definitely use your expertise as a professional librarian and cataloger." In December 2006, I received a letter from ECSU's president indicating that I was selected for a sabbatical for Spring 2008. I used the intervening period to prepare for an extended stay in a foreign country, including learning some conversational Spanish.

Subsequently, I learned that the two people who had supported my candidacy at the CDRS had left the Galápagos to work in Samoa. I was shocked and somewhat hesitant but as ready as one can be to try flying as a "solo librarian" in a South American country.

On February 4, 2008, I flew out of Quito, Ecuador to Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, home of the CDRS, the Galápagos National Park, and the famous tortoise and conservation icon, "Lonesome George." The Galapagos Islands lie some 600 miles west of Ecuador, and their unique flora and fauna inspired the great English naturalist Charles Darwin to formulate his theory of natural selection.

I arrived during Carnival, the Monday and Tuesday before Lent, and found that the station's personnel—about 100 researchers, administrators, and others—were on holiday. This gave me a few days to adjust to a new culture; figure out the campus and its buildings, get re-acustomed with dormitory life, find the cafeteria, and learn about what to drink—or not, sanitation, transportation, and other necessities of life.

I spent 13 weeks working in the CDRS Library. The library maintained an official 40-hour workweek, but I also kept it open during part of the two-hour mid-day siesta, some evenings and on weekends. It was one of the few places to get free (but very slow) Internet access on campus. Internet cafes in town provided much faster connectivity but, of course, charged for their services.

As a one-person operation, my duties included opening and closing the library, emptying the dehumidifier every morning, sorting the mail, charging out materials, circulation, shelving, processing, cataloging and providing reference assistance. Users included all campus personnel, researchers, visiting scholars, students, volunteers, tour guides, residents of Puerto Ayora, and other interested visitors, usually librarians on holiday.

My ability to speak Spanish is limited, but researchers frequently spoke English or were able to convey their needs with key words that resulted in successful communication. I wanted people to speak Spanish to me so that I could improve my command of the language, but found that many Spanish-speakers were just as eager to speak English so that they could improve their English language skills!

The library has no budget for acquisitions and depends on the receipt of gifts, so its growth is rather haphazard. Collections

include the Darwin Collection, which contains books by and about Darwin; the Galápagos Collection, consisting of books and book chapters about the islands, reports from staff researchers, theses on the Galapagos written by undergraduate and graduate students, and research by scientists, and the Ecuadorian government; archives, which contains valuable manuscript materials; periodicals, received in exchange for the CDRS' journal *Galapagos Research*; and general and reference collections that are badly outdated. The languages of items held include Spanish, English, German, Japanese, Italian, French, Polish and Russian.

The most frequently used collection is the Galápagos journal article collection, similar to a vertical file but cataloged and classified in Dewey, and accessible through the OPAC by title, keyword and subject. This collection is multi-lingual and holds articles written from the 19th century to the present.

There are also aerial photographs of the islands and U.S. occupied Baltra Island from the 1940s; maps and atlases specific to the Galápagos, the Galápagos National Park, and Galápagos Marine Reserve; a slide collection (but no slide projector); as well as DVD and CD collections.

My most rewarding experiences included meeting and assisting visiting scholars, such as: Dennis Geist, an University of Idaho geologist whose expertise is the Galápagos island volcanoes; Frank J. Sulloway, a Darwin and Galápagos scholar from UC Berkeley; Princeton University professors B. Rosemary and Peter Grant, *the* definitive authorities on Darwin's Finches; Carol Ann Bassett from the University of Oregon, who is writing a book under contract to the National Geographic Society; and Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, professor emeritus from the Max Planck Society, Munich, whose studies and research activities resulted in the establishment of the Charles Darwin Foundation and the creation of the Charles Darwin [Biological Research] Station of the Galápagos.

After my volunteer stint was completed, I moved into a rented room in town and awaited my husband's arrival from the U.S. We toured the Galápagos Islands for eight days. With a native guide onboard our boat, we explored a different island with different wildlife each day. Returning to Puerto Ayora, we spent a few more days sightseeing there before flying back to the States.

I feel amazingly fortunate to have been able to go to the Enchanted Islands for three months. What I learned about the ecology, conservation and restoration of the endemic flora, fauna and the marine life of this UNESCO World Heritage site was remarkable and unforgettable. I now have a greater appreciation and stronger admiration for all solo librarians, foreign and domestic.

The world will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth on February 12, 2009, and it will also be the 150th anniversary of the publication of his seminal work, *On The Origin Of Species*. I look forward to surfing the web from my laptop, exploring different locations, and experiencing the celebrations from the comfort of my armchair!

Kris Jacobi is head of cataloging and Carol Abatelli is head of collections & electronic services at ECSU's Smith Library.

Kris Jacobi *Head of Cataloging, Smith Library, ECSU*



Kris Jacobi



Carol Abatelli

What I learned about the ecology, conservation and restoration of the endemic flora, fauna and the marine life of this UNESCO World Heritage site was remarkable and unforgettable.



www.ctlibraryassociation.org

OFFICERS

President

Kathy Leeds

VP/President-Elect

Randi Ashton-Pritting

Past President

Carl Antonucci

Secretary/Treasurer

Allison Wang

Region 1 Representative

Tracy Ralston

Region 2 Representative

Hal Bright

Region 3 Representative

Siobhan Grogan

Region 4 Representative

Cynde Bloom Lahey

Region 5 Representative

Maribeth Breen

Region 6 Representative

Theresa Conley

ALA Chapter Councilor

Jay Johnston

NELA Representative

Mary Etter

CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

is published 11 times each year.

Subscriptions: \$45 in North

America; \$50 elsewhere

ISSN 0010-616X.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Tom Newman, *Chair*,

Carol Abatelli, Sharon Clapp,

Bruce Johnston,

Vince Juliano, David Kapp,

Kirsten Kilbourn, Douglas Lord,

Pam Najarian, Kate Sheehan

EDITOR

David Kapp

davidkapp@comcast.net

860-647-0697

WEBMASTER

Kirsten Kilbourn

claweb@ctlibrarians.org

CLA STAFF

Pam Najarian, Coordinator

cla@ctlibrarians.org

860-346-2444 (v) 860-344-9199 (f)

PO Box 75, Middletown, CT

06457

JOBLINE

www.ctlibrarians.org/

ctlibs/jobs.html

NELLS 2008

Continued from page 1

the support of Woodbridge Library Director Jan Day, who basically told me, “Do it. You can thank me later,” I applied and, happily, was accepted.

That was the easy part. Then the realization of what I was about to face began to sink in. Five days and four nights, away from my family, my computer, my television, ensconced at a retreat in Massachusetts for an “intensive four-day course designed for up-and-coming library leaders who are interested in working with library associations.” Terrified at the thought of having roommates again for the first time since college, I packed my swimsuit, bug spray, and an “open and inquiring mind,” as instructed, and set off on the Mass Pike, trying to calm my nerves.

My fears were unfounded; the week went by so quickly it seemed we had just begun, and then we were saying goodbye. These fantastic people I had only just met brought so many different life and work experiences to the table, enriching every conversation we had, whether in class, small groups or during meals. The conference center itself is an early 20th-century mansion, overlooking Lake Cochichewick, and the grounds are absolutely beautiful. If you’re going to be isolated from the rest of the world for a week, this is not a bad place to be.

The Connecticut contingent was well represented by Mike Moran (mentor) and Betsy Bray (co-chair). Although Mike has moved on to another position in Massachusetts, and Betsy has retired, they both took time to share their unique voices and years of experience with us, and I very much enjoyed the opportunities I had to speak with them. Betsy and Cheryl Bryan, the other co-chair, put so much effort into planning the week for us, especially the evening activities, which helped us to bond as a group outside the classroom. They included a campfire (really just an excuse for gourmet s’mores), a labyrinth walk, and the most cutthroat game of Library Jeopardy I have ever witnessed. We may have only been playing for key chains and assorted tchotchkes, but I actually feared for my life at one point.

One of the reasons, the main reason, perhaps, that made NELLS so engaging was Maureen Sullivan, our facilitator and fearless leader. Right from the start, Maureen was able to take a ragtag bunch of kids, er, librarians from across New England and mold us into a relatively cohesive unit. We may have started off the week as strangers, but by Friday morning we felt like we had been through something very important and

special together. Had we not gelled as a group, we probably never would have survived the Bat Incident of 2008. Even though she may have wanted to shriek and dive for cover like the rest of us, Maureen kept her cool and somehow managed to get the blood-sucking mammal out of our meeting room before anyone lost consciousness. At least that’s how I remember it, covering safely under my table.

As for the long-term, practical applications of what I experienced at NELLS, I don’t have to look far to see that it can be done. Lynn Serra, assistant director at the Woodbridge Library, participated in the 2005 NELLS session. At that time, Lynn was head of the Technical Services Department. In the three years since, she has not only been promoted, but she was also the recipient of the CLA Supporter of Support Staff Award at the 2008 CLA Annual Conference. Lynn has taken the core of lessons learned at NELLS and put them into practice, becoming a library leader who is recognized by her supervisors, and respected and well liked by her staff and colleagues. She embodies what a good leader is all about, and I think, “If she can do it, maybe I can, too.” I would say to anyone thinking about applying for NELLS the next time around, “Do it. You can thank me later.” ■

Patricia Valsecchi is community services director at the Woodbridge Town Library.



Calling All Library Leaders of the Future!

by Beth Crowley

“Calling All Library Leaders of the Future!” The subject line of the e-mail I received last January jumped out at me from among the messages in my inbox. Curious, I opened an announcement from Mary Etter, Connecticut’s representative to NELA. That announcement, about the New England Library Leadership Symposium became the start of a journey that would profoundly influence my career and life.

According to the NELA website, the symposium was created to “...foster the mentoring and development of leaders for library associations (state and regional).” Having participated in it, I believe that it achieves this objective—and much more.

After the applicants were selected, co-chairs Betsy Bray and Cheryl Bryan set up a wiki for

Continued on page 11

participants to get to know each other and find out what to bring to NELLS. A suggested reading list was also posted as preparation for the topics that would be discussed. The wiki sustained my anticipation and excitement from April, when I was accepted, until the end of July, when I arrived at the beautiful Rolling Ridge Conference Center.

After meeting our roommates and enjoying the first of many delicious meals to come, we gathered for the start of what would prove to be an amazing week. Under the expert facilitation of consultant Maureen Sullivan, an incredible leader herself, and a wonderful team of mentors, my fellow participants and I discussed and explored a wide range of topics, including: the challenges facing today's libraries, using power and influence, understanding the library as an organizational system, the importance of advocacy, the leader as a catalyst for change, and managing differences.

At mid-week, we were introduced to members of the New England state library associations, who offered valuable advice, such as "encourage the talent around you," "step out of your comfort zone," "be involved in the larger profession," and "find mentors—young or old."

This last bit of wisdom proved prophetic for me during a later coaching exercise. I had been looking for a mentor before coming to NELLS, someone older and more experienced than I am. However, during the exercise, my coach happened to be a younger librarian who had experience in the area I was struggling with. I presented him with my problem, and the response I received astounded me. The insight he offered me was dead on, and I was able to take away practical suggestions for improving my situation. The realization that I can learn from all levels of employees is a valuable lesson I will never forget, and one I will continue to put into practice.

One of the most significant aspects of the NELLS program is the format—an intensive, four-day, live-in experience that encourages the learning to extend far beyond structured class sessions. Social activities were scheduled each night, allowing participants to get to know each other on a more personal level than is possible at a one-day workshop. We not only shared ideas, but rooms and meals as well. This level of networking has left me with a feeling of connectedness that extends beyond my library, beyond Connecticut, to all of New England. I now have a group of colleagues, and in some cases good friends, that I feel comfortable contacting for advice and support.

Beyond the skills, models, and extensive reading list we received, my experience at NELLS has given me a strong sense of commitment to my chosen career and to serving the larger library community. It has given me the confidence and enthusiasm I need to continue my journey of becoming a library leader. I look forward to the years to come, and I will always look back fondly on my time at NELLS. ■

Beth Crowley is children's services supervisor for the Groton Public Library.



Knowledge, Vision, and an Action Plan

by Gail Zeiba

I was fairly certain going into last summer's New England Library Leadership Symposium that I would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a leader. In retrospect, my expectations were surpassed. Not only did I gain knowledge, I also came away with a clear vision and an action plan to guide my path to leadership.

The program content provided a comprehensive approach to leadership. Our trainer, Maureen Sullivan, was highly skilled and knowledgeable about the topic, leading the group with enthusiasm and humor. What transpired in hours seemed as if it had taken only minutes. Maureen kept the group fully engaged in discussions and dialogue, and each participant was given an opportunity to contribute.

Having the chance to spend concentrated quality time with peers allowed us to engage in meaningful dialogue and to gain new insights and ideas regarding librarianship. With plenty of time to hear each person's ideas or challenges, we were able to explore topics in depth. We became active listeners, mentors, and more—a cohort of professionals who are able to provide leadership and to support one another in our field.

There was plenty of time for reflection as well as recreation. The wooded grounds of the conference center were stunning, offering lakeside paths, meditative labyrinths, and places to play. Evenings were non-structured, lending themselves to social gatherings around campfires and card tables. All of which can be essential elements in helping us develop a well-rounded approach to work.

After participating in the symposium, I am better prepared to move forward with career goals, but foremost, I believe that I am better prepared to motivate and inspire others. In doing this, I believe librarians can and will transform the way library services are delivered in their communities. ■

Gail Zeiba is children's librarian at the Willimantic Public Library.



LOOKING AT BOOKS

Continued from page 2

becomes convinced that both tragedies were murders. Blue's literary and cinematic education are put to good use as she pursues clues in the form of movie posters, her father's articles on a shadowy organization known as the Night Watchmen, one of the victim's written notes on that same group, and her own research on the Web. Her biggest clues, however, turn out to be her relationships with Hannah Schneider and with her father. In the process of reconstructing two murder scenarios, Blue unravels mysteries from her own young life and takes a sudden, unanticipated step into independent adulthood. Remember to take the author's "Final Exam." It's short. It's fun. It will make you think!

Read more book reviews by Vince Juliano at www.ctlibraryassociation.org.



PO Box 75, Middletown, CT 06457

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 945

Connecticut Libraries

October 2008 • Volume 50, Number 9

Nells 2008	1
Obversion: <i>Classic Avoidance</i>	2
Books: <i>Special Topics in Calamity</i> <i>Physics</i>	2
From the President	3
CLA Executive Board Highlights	4
Fall Meetings	4, 7
One Woman's Legacy	5
Technology: <i>When Bad Things Happen</i>	8
Spotlight: <i>Kris Jacobi</i>	9



Members of the 2008/2009 CLA Executive Board posed for their class picture at their September meeting in Wallingford. Seated (from left): Carl Antonucci, Past President; Kathy Leeds, President; Randi Ashton-Pritting, Vice President/President Elect. See www.ctlibraryassociation.org for a directory of CLA Executive Board members.

Photo: Chris Bradley

It's time to think about entering the 2009 CLA Publicity Awards Contest. We are looking for your best examples of print and electronic PR created during the 2008 calendar year. See www.ctlibraryassociation.org for details and entry form. Entries are due by January 15, 2009.

Join Me @ CLA



As a member of CLA, you can flex your library muscles, pump up your professional awareness, and have a blast with friends and colleagues while you're at it.

John A. Cayer
InterLibrary Services Supervisor
Fairfield University Library

MEMBERSHIP INFO

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