



The CONNector

Connecticut State Library Newsletter

November 2002

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The State Librarian's Column

Kendall F. Wiggin
Connecticut State Librarian



Intellectual Freedom in a Time of War

That was the theme of the 3rd Annual Connecticut Leadership Conference held on October 10 in Westport. More than 150 librarians and library trustees gathered to learn of the impact the war on terrorism is having on the very foundations of our country. One of the great things about this country is that a group of people can gather to discuss issues of the day and question government policy. The sad thing about the current situation is that we had to come together at all. By all accounts the conference was a big success. Most importantly, it was the first major discussion by the Connecticut Library community since the War on Terrorism was declared. This war poses great challenges, especially for that particular American invention, the free public library, a bulwark of intellectual freedom. The topic and the speakers were so provocative as to cause at least one attendee to question our patriotism. Questioning law enforcement tactics or the intentions of national leaders is certainly legitimate. The program was not about foiling law enforcement's efforts to protect our security. Rather it was a wakeup call for librarians and library trustees to not blindly yield to efforts, however well intentioned and intoned, that compromise the very freedoms that define our country.

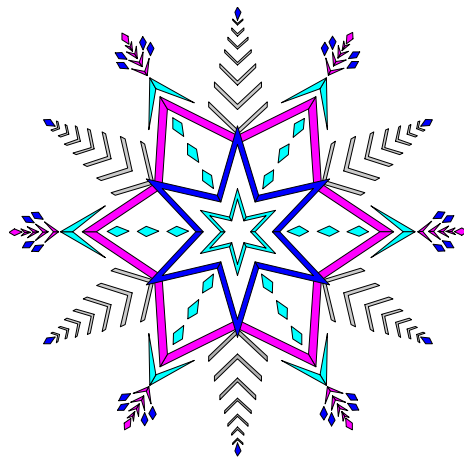
It is very easy to let concern for our own personal safety outweigh freedoms we take for granted. Because we choose to fly, for example, we have accepted invasions of our privacy. I didn't like it the last time I went through airport security and was pulled aside and patted down by a man wearing latex gloves. I had already shown my ID three times and had had my briefcase searched. What had I done to receive this type of treatment, I knew I wasn't a terrorist, but how did he know that? Collectively, we have agreed to accept these new procedures. But the idea of law enforcement coming into libraries trying to seize computers or asking for information about our patrons is Orwellian. Not being able to tell anyone that law enforcement has been inquiring about a person, including your supervisor and the person who is subject to the inquiry, is even more repugnant. Don't doubt that this could happen in your library; we learned at the conference that similar incidents have already occurred in Connecticut. We also learned that federal law has trumped state law when it comes to the confidentiality of library records.

continued

Historic Documents Preservation Program

Graphics designer Peter Good of Cummings & Good located in Chester, Connecticut was commissioned by the Connecticut State Library to design an image for a poster to represent the Historic Documents Preservation Program. This program was created by Public Act 00-146, "An Act Concerning Real Estate Filings and the Preservation of Historic Documents". The act established a dedicated fund to improve the preservation and management of historic documents. To date the State Library has awarded one million one hundred twenty four thousand one hundred seventy (\$1,124,170.00) in grants to towns and cities.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator at the Connecticut State Library administers this essential program. All of the historic documents represented are photographs of materials found in the State Archives. This poster will be distributed to all Connecticut town clerks and public libraries by the end of the year.



**Happy Holidays
from
Connecticut State Library**



Connecticut State Library
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1537

Connecticut State Library

Established 1854

State Library Board Notes

The State Library Board met on September 25, 2002 at the New Britain Public Library.

Dean Nelson reported for Jack Shannahan, Chair of the Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) on several recent significant acquisitions including the Major General Thomas Guyer Collection and a 15 image series of ½ plate glass negatives (1856-1864) acquired from the Machinery & Mechanics of Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company.

Ken Wiggin reported that the state budget situation is not good.. CSL has submitted its FY2004-2005 budget to the Office of Policing and Management. An increased amount was requested for the Digital Library and the book budget. CSL is also preparing a 10% budget reduction and a prioritization of its programs

In new business, the Board tabled a request for a grant extension for the Hagan Memorial Library, East Haven until the next meeting. The representative for the Hagan Memorial Library was involved in a minor accident on the way to the meeting. The State Library Board approved a one year grant extension for the Douglas Library in North Canaan until October 27, 2003. After considerable discussion, the Board denied The Simsbury Public Library's request for a three-year grant extension. The Board was very concerned about setting a precedent which could result in scarce state dollars for public library construction being tied up for years. The Board suggested that the Simsbury Public Library reapply for a grant closer to the anticipated start date of the project.

In other action, the State Library Board approved 11 appointments (or reappointments) to the Advisory Council on Library Planning and Development (ACLPD). Pat Holloway, the out going Chair of the Advisory Council on Library Planning and Development (ACLPD) and director of the New Britain Public Library was thanked for her service on the Council.

The Board approved a temporary change in Museum hours. New hours will be Monday through Friday 9-4 and Saturday 9-3. The Museum will be closed on Sundays, state holidays and Saturdays when a holiday observance is on a Friday or Monday. The change in hours was recommended by the State Librarian citing budget constraints, security staffing problems and a very low attendance on Sundays. The State Library pays the Judicial Branch for the additional police service on weekends. With their limited police force, they have found it increasing difficult to cover the weekend hours. The Board will review the situation in six months.

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Dean Nelson, Administrator, Museum of CT History

LIBRARY SERVICES

Archives (860) 757-6595
Connecticut Digital Library (860) 344-2475
Government Information Services (860) 757-6500
History and Genealogy (860) 757-6580
Law and Legislation (860) 757-6590
Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
1-800-842-4516
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Museum of Connecticut History (860)757-6535
Preservation Services (860) 757-6525
Willimantic Library Service Center (860) 456-1717

Web Site www.cslib.org

This newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, November. The deadline for contributions is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please send them to Editor, CSL, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06106-1537 (bdelaney@cslib.org)

The Connecticut State Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Patriot Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) is not just one law. Rather it represents a series of changes to existing laws as well as creating whole new laws. Not all provisions are limited to foreign nationals and it isn't just limited to fighting terrorists. Law enforcement is doing just that, enforcing the law. However, we must be prepared to challenge new laws that encroach on our freedoms. We must demand more debate in the halls of our legislatures when new legislation affecting our basic freedoms is proposed, no matter how well intentioned. Libraries can inform citizens by developing programs and collections on the Bill of Rights.

I consider myself a patriot. Oh, I don't wear it on my sleeve (or car window), that's just not me, but I do strive to protect our rights as Americans. We must strike a balance between the security of our country and the rights that make us the envy of the world. To not safeguard those rights is unpatriotic.



The CONNector is up and running electronically. The list serve has been created based on our hard copy mailing lists and your subscriptions.

Please note that the correct method for subscribing to a list is as follows:

To: imailsrv@list.state.ct.us
 CC;
 BCC:
 Subject:

The body of the e-mail should have the following: Subscribe listname; person's name, first and last name- (this is the person subscribing to the list)

To Unsubscribe follow the above example. The only difference would be in the body of the e-mail. It would look as follows:

Unsubscribe listname; person's name, first and last name. This should be done from the same e-mail address the Subscribe was done from.

The CONNector will continue to be offered through the Connecticut State Library website. Go to www.cslib.org/connector.

The CONNector Editorial Board
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Full Text Electronic Journal Collection

Douglas Lord, Reference Librarian

The Connecticut State Library now provides librarians and patrons one-stop shopping for accessing over 15,000 full text titles. This exciting new resource, the Full Text Electronic Journal Collection, enables patrons and staff to use a single interface rather than hunting for access to journals through any of our multiple subscription services (Ebsco, FirstSearch, etc).

In the past, searchers had to look through each subscription service for the journal they needed – and hope that it was there! Needless to say, this was often a frustrating experience for the patron and the librarian. The Full Text Electronic Journal Collection eliminates those steps; instead it informs a user of a title's availability then opens the door for access. By using a single interface to our multiple subscriptions, the Full Text Electronic Journal Collection saves time, eliminates aggravation, and simplifies access without sacrificing functionality.

An example is the *Harvard Business Review*. When an onsite user types that title into the title box of "Find an electronic journal,"

they are able to select full text issues ranging from 1922 to October 2002. Although the library's access to this information comes from multiple subscriptions (Business Source Premier, EBSCOhost, and iCONN), users need not go through the arduous process of identifying which might be the correct subscription service to choose [for their date range]. Researchers can also choose between typing in the entire title, the beginning of the title, or simply different words within the title.

The Full Text Electronic Journal Collection reduces - and sometimes eliminates, the labor-intensive process of pursuing the right database; instead, users can quickly get to a search screen, tailor their search, and get the information they need.

The Connecticut State Library has partnered with Serial Solutions, a private company run by librarians, called Serials Solutions to provide this combined interface to our multiple subscriptions which include JSTOR, iCONN, EBSCOhost, OCLC's FirstSearch, Ethnic NewsWatch LegalTrac, Congressional Universe, State Capital Universe, and Hein-On-Line.

Honored

First lady Laura Bush honored the Hartford Public Library and five other libraries and museums at the White House during a colloquium on libraries, museums, and lifelong learning on October 29th. The six were cited for outstanding public service to their communities.

Louise Blalock, Hartford Public Library's chief librarian, Paul Shipman, president of the library board of directors, and Rudy Arnold, vice president of the board, were on hand to receive the 2002 National Award for Museum and Library Service from the first lady. The Hartford library was honored for sponsoring a host of community outreach programs. State Librarian Kendall Wiggin, who was also in attendance, said this was a proud moment for Hartford and all of Connecticut.



Governor Rowland Announces \$4.8 Million for Connecticut Public Libraries

Governor Rowland announced awards totaling \$4.8 million in state grants for the construction, renovation, and repair to public libraries in cities and towns throughout Connecticut. Formal approval of the grants took place at the State Bond Commission meeting on Friday, October 25th.

"Supporting our public libraries is of critical importance," said Governor Rowland. "With these funds, we are helping libraries provide students and the community a place to learn and share ideas."

Reaching Remote Users with Virtual Reference

Hilary T. Frye, Legal Reference Specialist

The Law/Legislative Reference Unit at the Connecticut State Library (CSL) is participating in a virtual reference pilot program sponsored by the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO).

Through the use of interactive and web conferencing technology, CSL and the NELLCO libraries are reaching out to a wider audience of remote users. "Virtual reference" means communication is instant and reciprocal. The "chat room" aspect provides a "real time" connection between the librarian and the user.

A collaborative browsing feature of the software allows librarians to educate remote users on search strategies and evaluation of websites. This collaborative browsing software permits the law librarian to send a website to the remote user's browser or direct a remote user's browser to a website and steer the user through the website. This Virtual Reference service provides remote customers with the expertise of a trained law librarian. The librarian works with the remote customer on-line to tailor and direct a customized Internet search.

The pilot project was launched on Tuesday, September 3, 2002, and will continue through May, 2003. Nineteen NELLCO member libraries are participating in the Virtual Reference Pilot Project. Each of the participating libraries covers a portion of the weekly schedule. When a customer clicks into the service, the question may be answered by a law librarian from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, or Pennsylvania! Each participating library is assigned certain hours on the schedule. Connecticut State Library works Wednesdays [1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.] and Fridays [11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.]

Some Connecticut customers have been surprised to click the logo on the CSL website and get a librarian from another state. One Connecticut customer had the following dialog when using the service:

Connecticut User: I am looking for the Connecticut Statute that allows hunters to donate legally harvested wild game to Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens. The law was signed by Gov. Rowland in July of 1995. It is commonly known as the "Hunters for the Hungry" Law.

Massachusetts Trial Court Librarian (MTCL): I will try to locate it for you, but it will take me a few minutes. I work in a library in Mass.

Connecticut User: OK. I thought I was contacting the CT library in Hartford.

MTCL Librarian: We share the work, so the service can be supported every day.

MTCL Librarian: I'm sending you the website for Connecticut Statutes, Section 26-78a. [Page sent] www.cga.state.ct.us/2001/pub/Chap490.htm#sec26-78a.htm

Connecticut User: Thanks, You folks are great. I've been trying to locate this law for the past week.

Librarians providing this service will not provide legal advice. Legal advice is defined as including but not limited to:

- 1) Advising a patron on how to pursue a legal action (what cause of action is available, what remedies to seek, what pleadings to file, etc.);
- 2) evaluating a cause of action;
- 3) Interpreting contract clauses, statutes, cases or regulations;
- 4) opining on the quality of an attorney's work product or strategy;
- 5) opining on the decision of a court or judge;
- 6) pointing to a legal resource as "the answer".

-from Section 2.3 of LIBRARY LAWLINE PILOT PROJECT POLICIES & PROCEDURES www.nellco.org/librarylawline/policies.html

a new web service from your law library

Need Help?

Click Here!



Look for this logo on your library's web site to chat with a reference librarian.

Just click to try it
Monday through Thursday,
9 am - 7 pm
Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 1 pm - 5 pm

<http://www.cslib.org.new/htm>

continued

NELLCO has established a listserv for the Virtual Reference Project to facilitate ongoing review and evaluation of the service. In November. NELLCO reference librarians will meet in Springfield to discuss the progress of the project.

The service is being offered Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday from 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The service is called Library LAWLINE, and there is a clickable logo on the state library website under New & Noteworthy: www.cslib.org/new.htm



William Sullivan, Administrator, Connecticut Digital Library

ReQuest is the statewide library catalog of Connecticut. It allows users to search over three million titles in over three hundred Connecticut libraries at once. Users can place interlibrary loan requests for items of interest over the Web, track the status of their requests, and have the items delivered to their local public library.

Usage Statistics for FY 2002 (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002)

iCONN Databases: 4.7 million searches. The breakdown is:

- 40% academic libraries
- 31% school libraries
- 29% public libraries

The detailed statistics can be viewed at www.iconn.org/staff/documents/monthlystats.xls. Statistics comparing the first quarters of FY 2002 and FY 2003 can be viewed at www.iconn.org/staff/documents/20022003stats.xls.

reQuest Statistics:

Description	FY 2002	FY 2001	% Change
Logins to reQuest/WebPAC	290,527*	131,972	120%
Searches on reQuest/WebPAC	921,061*	948,867	- 3%
Interlibrary Loan Requests Filled	48,613	41,136	18%
Libraries offering reQuest/ILL	184	171	8%
Records in reQuest/Main	3,654,054	3,595,671	2%
Holdings in reQuest/Main	17,793,520	16,959,272	5%
Records in reQuest/Serials	70,214	67,116	5%
Holdings in reQuest/Serials	194,919	195,568	- 0.3%
Libraries with holdings in reQuest/Main Catalog	363	335	8%
Libraries with holdings in reQuest/Serials Catalog	465	438	6%

“Fighting Bob”

Howard Miller, Curator, Museum of Connecticut History

Visitors entering the main lobby of the State Library and Supreme Court Building pass by a large ship model of the *USS Connecticut*. This ship played an important role in American history after its commissioning in 1905. The *Connecticut* was flagship of the “Great White Fleet” sent on a round the world cruise in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Commanding this fleet was Admiral Robley D. “Fighting Bob” Evans. The Museum of Connecticut History has recently acquired a color postcard depicting Evans at the height of his career.

Evans was born in Floyd County, Virginia on August 18, 1846. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was a student at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, graduating in 1863 and beginning his active service with the U.S. fleet.

Late in the American Civil War, on the 15th of January 1865, at 10:40 a.m., a party consisting of 100 seamen and marines left the *USS POWHATAN* in company with detachments from other ships of the fleet to attack Fort Fisher, North Carolina, held by the Confederates. The men in the naval landing force were all volunteers. Among them was Ensign Robley D. Evans. As he proceeded toward the fort, Evans was shot in the thigh. Not letting the painful wound deter him, he wrapped a handkerchief around it and led his men toward the Fort. In a short span, he was shot several times once in the knee, which brought him down. As the battle continued, and while under severe fire from the fort, Evans and other wounded men were rescued by a detachment from the *USS Pequot* led by Acting Ensign Anthony Smalley. The wounded were taken to the *USS Nereus* and then transferred to the *Santiago de Cuba* for passage to the hospital at Norfolk.



Admiral Robley D. “Fighting Bob” Evans

Because of his serious wounds, as he lay helpless in the hospital he was approached by a surgeon who suggested amputation. Evans pulled out a pistol from under his pillow and said he would shoot at the first sign of a surgeon’s saw. The surgeon concluded that Evans would die and did not press for amputation. Obviously, the young ensign survived. However, these injuries left him with a limp and severe pain for the rest of his life.

After the Civil War he was medically retired from the U.S. Navy because of his injuries.. Years later, after appealing to Congress for reinstatement, he was again placed into active duty in the Navy.

Because of the outbreak of a revolution in Chile in January 1891, The United States Minister to Chile requested naval forces to protect the U.S.’s interests in that county.

In command of the gunboat, *USS Yorktown*, Evans arrived in Valparaiso to safeguard the interests of the United States. His forceful yet tactful handling of tensions between the Chileans and U.S. sailors earned him the nickname “Fighting Bob.”

When the Spanish American War began Captain Robley D. Evans found himself in command of the U.S.’s newest and largest battleship, the *USS Iowa*. She had only been commissioned less than a year earlier.

On May 12, 1898, the *USS IOWA*, with Evans in command, joined the other ships of the squadron and entered the firing line against the Morro Battery and the Eastern Battery at San Juan de Puerto Rico. After firing on the Spanish batteries for about two hours, the fleet discontinued action. During the course of this event the *Iowa* was struck by a shell from the Eastern Battery which wounded three men and caused some damage on deck.

On the 3rd of July 1898, the *USS Iowa* was in its blockade position at the entrance of Santiago de Cuba. The Spanish ship *Infanta Maria Teresa*, Admiral Cervera’s flagship, was sighted coming out of the harbor. She was followed by the *Vizcaya*, *Cristobol Colon*, and the *Almirante Oquendo*. The *Iowa* headed for the *Infanta Maria Teresa* and fired at her until she moved beyond range, then the *Iowa* concentrated on the *Vizcaya*. The attack went against the *Cristobol Colon* and the *Almirante Oquendo*. Of the *Oquendo*, Evans commented in admiration that, in spite of being hit hard, she “pluckily held on her course and fairly smothered us with a shower of shells

continued

and machine gun [fire].”

The *Oquendo* and *Maria Teresa* were both on fire and sunk by the guns of other American ships. The *Iowa* continued firing on the *Vizcaya* until she struck her colors and ran aground. With other ships of the fleet involved in the pursuit of the escaping *Cristobol Colon*, Evans chose to go to the aid of the crew of the *Vizcaya*. While trying to escape the burning vessel and climb onto the beach, the Spanish crewmen were being attacked by the Cubans. Evans was incensed by this attack on defenseless men who had fought to the best of their ability. Lowering boats, a landing party was sent ashore to defend the Spaniards against the Cubans. An officer was sent to find the Cuban commander and inform him that “unless they ceased their infamous work,” Evans would turn the immense guns of the *Iowa* on the Cubans themselves. Lt. Cmdr. Wainwright of the *USS Gloucester* similarly threatened the Cubans. The combination of forces caused the Cubans to cease their action. The *Iowa*’s crew rescued Captain Eulate, the commanding officer of the *Vizcaya*, along with 23 officers and about 248 men of the Spanish crew. Five dead of the Spanish crew were buried with honors, the wounded were cared for, and the remaining became prisoners of war. As he always did, Captain Evans included complimentary statements in his reports pertaining to his “admiration for his magnificent crew”.

The *Iowa* had suffered no losses to the crew in the action, something that would have extra meaning to Evans. Serving under him aboard the *Iowa* was his son, a naval cadet.

Years later, Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans commanded President Theodore Roosevelt’s “Great White Fleet” of sixteen battleships on the first leg of its long world cruise. The fleet left Hampton Roads, Virginia on December 16, 1907, and after cruising around South America, passing through the Strait of Magellan, and visiting many countries along the way, the fleet arrived in San Francisco Bay on May 6, 1908. The cruise was not a good experience for Evans. He had spent most of his time in bed with his pain and illness.

In San Francisco, an enfeebled Evans relinquished his command to Rear Admiral Charles Mitchell Thomas. However, Thomas also became ill, and was replaced five days later by Rear Admiral Charles Stillman Sperry. The “Great White Fleet” then continued its triumphant cruise, stopping at ports in countries all around the world, and verifying that the United States was indeed a world naval power. Having circled the world, the fleet returned to Hampton Roads on February 22, 1909.

Robley D. Evans died in 1912.

Book Funds Restored

Working in cooperation with the Office of Policy and Management, the State Library has been able to restore \$288,265 in book funds. The budget adjustments passed by the Legislature in June had resulted in an unprecedented 34% cut to the book budget. The magnitude of the reduction became clear as the Library prepared to cancel more than 500 titles. By reallocating some unexpended capitol equipment funds the Office of Policy and Management was able to offset the cut. The book budget is still below its FY02 level and some cancellations are inevitable. However major long-term damage to the collection has been avoided. State Librarian Kendall Wiggin acknowledged that this is only a short-term fix, but one he is very grateful to OPM for.

Thanksgiving and Christmas at Long Lane, 1874

Mark H. Jones, State Archivist

In 1874 Superintendent S. N. Rockwell and his wife were in their first year of running the Long Lane Industrial School for Girls. They had come from New York's House of Refuge, a pioneering reformatory for children. Originally Long Lane was privately incorporated. "Wayward children" between the ages of 8 and 16 were sent to the school on complaints filed in any court. The State exercised its in loco parentis powers in committing each girl and subsidized their placements. The founders and directors thought that the best place for the girls was on a country farm far away from what they believed was crime, filth, and degradation of the city. At Long Lane, the Superintendent, teachers, and House Matrons provided an extremely structured day with a regular schedule. Children resided in the Pratt or Street Homes, named after wealthy benefactors. They received hearty doses of Christian moral instruction, schooling, and training as housewives. They also worked in a box factory whose sales supplemented state funds and private donations for many years.

The bylaws of the school directed the Superintendent to keep a journal of the most memorable events of each day. Rockwell was the first one to do so. The *Superintendent's Journal* is one of several records that the State Archives is acquiring from the current Long Lane. In transcribing the entries I have remained faithful to the original spelling and punctuation.

"Thanksgiving Day." Nov. 26. [18]74.¹

A day of cloudless skies, soft - misty atmosphere and almost summer warmth.

The girls have had a happy day. Dinner of chick pie, sweet potatoes, turnips, onions and potatoes, cranberries, "cold slaw," doughnuts, dumplings and squash pie, finished by a supply of nuts and candies for which we are indebted to the kindness of Messrs. [] and [] & Gardner.

The mildness of the day made it safe to spend an hour or two in the playgrounds after dinner, which was much enjoyed.

At five o'clock all assembled in the Chapel, when an entertainment prepared by the girls under direction of the teachers was given. Eight very effective tableaux were rendered, and a little play called 'The Mystery of Muddlersity (?)' was enacted by seven of the older girls. These being interspersed with singing by the school, and some very fine solos by Miss Martin, soprano of the Baptist Ch.[urch] choir, made over two hours pass swiftly away. At 20 min[utes] past 7 all joined in the evening devotions and the girls retired at the usual hour, 8 P.M. We expected visits from resident trustees but were disappointed - and besides nuts and candies above mentioned no donations were received.

Pratt Home 44 [girls]	Street Home 43 =	87
Esc.[aped] 2	On Trial 12 =	14
		101

Christmas Day. 1874²

All on the premises have been very busy in preparations for the celebration of this day for a week past, in every interval from regular duty in the usual routine.

Many very liberal donations have been sent in from citizens of Middletown, also from Hartford and Wallingford. An abundant dinner of roast - turkey with vegetables, and dessert of mince pie & cakes was provided, and enjoyed by the girls as only children can enjoy such food. Dinner at - 2 P. M. - recreations, games & etc., until 5 P. M. when they went to rooms for an hour. At six all repaired to the chapel which was tastefully decorated with mottoes, emblems and garlands in evergreens. Two Christmas trees reaching the ceiling, were loaded with gifts provided by friends of the school. One held those designed for the Pratt Home, and the other those for the Street Home. After singing a Christmas Hymn, the girls were addressed by Mr. Conner of the Wesleyan University and listened to his remarks with great attention and pleasure. Another song was followed by an address from the Hon. Samuel J. Starr, which was received with delight by all present. Mr. H. Vassem of Wallingford afterwards spoke to them in a very interesting manner. A number of songs and select readings by the girls followed, interrupted once by a recess of 15 minutes for general conversation which was enjoyed by all, both visitors and girls. At last came the unloading of the trees, which had been deferred until 8 o'clock in mthe hope that some ladies who had most largely contributed to their[?], might be present at the distribution. But in this we were disappointed - the only cloud upon our happy day. The girls each received a new collar, and from two to four handkerchiefs, and a variety of other gifts were distributed, including dolls picture books, toys, bracelets, pictures, pin cushions, tidys, & etc., & etc. There was also a liberal supply of candies, nuts apples and oranges, a box of sweetmeats having been put into each stocking on Christmas Eve, and large cornucopias being placed on the trees for every girl. It was ten o'clock when the branches were at last bare, and all retired to their rooms, after the evening hymn and prayer, tired but happy. The best of order, and kindly feeling throughout the day.

For list of donations & donors for Christmas see Donation book. Two trial girls "at home" for the day, making numbers tonight -

Pratt Home 46	Street Home 43 =	89
Esc[aped] 4	On trial 5 -	9
		98

Sat. [December] 26th.

Hard day's work for all "cleaning up" after the holiday. Omitted to mention that many of the children's friends visited them yesterday - but too many, alas, with evidences of intoxication about them.

¹ RG 178, Long Lane School, *Superintendent's Journal*, p. 61.

² *Ibid.*, p. 67.

In Praise of Volunteers

Carol Taylor, Director, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped



Although Volunteer Recognition Week is celebrated nationally each April, at Connecticut State Library's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) we celebrate volunteers everyday. We have grown to depend on the many volunteers who provide hours of their time and talents to make our service more effective for our patrons. Volunteers play many roles.

In-house volunteers pull, shelve, inspect, and repair incoming cassette books, participate in outreach activities, and perform many clerical tasks alongside library staff. A twenty-one member, all volunteer, advisory committee made up of patrons and persons representing organizations and agencies serving visually and physically disabled individuals advocates for the library and is a wonderful support to the staff and other library volunteers.

Connecticut Volunteer Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Inc. (CVSBH) is a non-profit corporation that works with LBPH to record books, pamphlets, and magazines onto cassette tape for patrons of the library program. CVSBH is an all-volunteer, statewide program with over 250 members using five studio locations for recording in East Hartford, Litchfield, Milford, Ridgefield, and Southbury.

Throughout the year special projects utilize volunteers. A beautiful "Sensory Garden" spanning the entire front of the library building



was created entirely by volunteers as an Eagle Scout project. The garden contains plantings with color, texture, and smell along with wind chimes and a water feature to bring sound and relaxation to the garden for people with different disabilities. Annually the United Way's Day of Caring assigns volunteers to the library to participate in special projects. Again the garden becomes a major focus for weeding, trimming, mulching, and additional plantings. In-house projects also benefit from these enthusiastic volunteers.

On a daily basis the faces of the volunteers change but the dedication and enthusiasm of each is consistent and contagious. You would never be able to distinguish the regular staff from the volunteers as they perform their jobs. Everyone is part of a team

that works so well together. There are many reasons why people volunteer. For the selfless acts they perform to enhance the library's ability to bring a better quality of service into the lives of its patrons, we praise volunteers.