

Chief  
Executive  
Officer's  
REPORT

September 2

2010

---

## A Review of the Library's Finances

### Year-End Results by Major Expense Categories:

Salaries	4,798,536	57.2%
Benefits	1,884,434	22.5%
Prof/Tech Serv	172,762	2.1%
Maintenance Contracts	346,738	4.1%
Systemwide Purchased Svs.	70,036	0.8%
Supplies	850,125	10.1%
Equipment	186,978	2.2%
Miscellaneous	81,643	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,391,252</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Year-End Results by Major Departmental Categories:

Administration	784,212	9.3%
Information Technology	379,090	4.5%
Central Circulation	195,487	2.3%
Technical Services	466,384	5.6%
Public Relations	46,653	0.5%
Children's Services	689,051	8.2%
Reference & Adult Services	601,326	7.2%
Facilities Services	723,603	8.6%
CT Center for the Book	78,494	0.9%
Branch Operations	2,398,814	28.7%
Hartford History Center	66,674	0.8%
Community Dev. & Civic Services	77,030	0.9%
Employee Benefits	1,884,434	22.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,391,252</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Total FY 09-10 revenue:     \$8,826,394**  
**Total FY 09-10 expense:    \$8,391,252**  
**Surplus:                         \$ 242,356**

**Note regarding surplus:** Of the total, \$198,135 are grant revenues designated for specific purposes to be spent during FY 10-11. The remainder (\$44,221) is a surplus from the City's contribution and will be used to offset any unanticipated changes in benefit expenses.

## Library and Public Services

### *Adult Services*

For fiscal year 2010, attendance at adult classes, workshops, forums, and events was up **12%** (+10% Downtown, +40% in the branches). The large increase in the branches is primarily the result of several neighborhood branches having served as testing sites for Census jobs. Adult learner attendance was up **13%**; adult arts, cultural, and heritage attendance was up **6%**. The largest percentage increases in class/workshop attendance were in job and career-related (79%), ESOL (41%), and computer/technology (27%). The percentage increase in attendance at visual arts events was 270%, due to the success of the **ArtWalk**.

At the end of June, the Job & Career Services Center was relocated from the Adult Learner Center to an area near the new customer service desk (the northwest corner of the main floor). This move gives job seekers easier access to staff assistance, whether it is assistance with some aspect of the job search process, a software program, or a printing requirement. The Job & Career Services Center has eight (8) new computer workstations and signage is coming soon. Concurrently, all public access computers on the main floor, with the exception of those in the Adult Learner Center, were added to the time and print management system that has been in use for the Tech Center for some time. This system requires an individual to sign up to use a computer with a library card or a guest pass. This change permits the Library to manage the demand for computer time more efficiently and ensure fair access. Four computers have been designated as express stations (15 minute time limit) and are intended for those who just want to quickly check email or print a document.

*Job Searching and Preparation Strategies for Older Workers*, a six-week course conducted three times beginning in March, was offered as a result of a collaboration between the Library and Easter Seals. In May, the *Encore Opportunities Fair: Work Past 50 and Love It* also targeted older adults. Marcia LaReau, an inspirational speaker and successful entrepreneur, gave the keynote address. Henning Seip, demonstrated KRAZOOM, a new, online job search tool that he created. Christine Pallotti, local business and life coach, offered one-on-one coaching to individuals experiencing career transitions. This was the third annual *Encore Opportunities Fair*. Classes in which students learned English words, phrases, and concepts used in the workplace and by job searchers were part of The American Place (TAP) program.

The Library completed another successful year of nonprofit workshops. For the quarter, there were eight workshops with 203 attendees from 120 nonprofits/grassroots organizations and 27 public libraries. Funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving supported four of these workshops and will support five upcoming workshops. In the fall, the Library will welcome a new nonprofit workshop sponsor, The Alliance for Non-profit Growth & Opportunity (TANGO).

Health and wellness events included a prostate cancer information session and screening with the Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Initiative at Saint Francis Hospital and return visits by Hartford Hospital's mobile mammography unit, with which the Library has collaborated for several years. As part of the *Ingredients for Change Campaign*, The Hartford Food System, the City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, and the Library, partnering with Active Voice and Participant Media, held a community screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary, *Food Inc.* A panel discussion with community members who are making a difference by helping Hartford residents obtain healthy food followed the film screening. Attendees learned about the nation's food system and, most importantly, steps that they could take to ensure the food they eat and provide for their families is of high quality. The overarching take-home lesson was that people really can control the freshness and healthiness of their food, even in an urban setting.

The premiere showing of *Earth Day 40: Connecticut's Environment Past Present and Future* by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection took place at the Library. It was followed by discussion of how Hartford residents can work together to preserve and improve the community. Representatives of various organizations and agencies spoke about opportunities to become involved. Eco-friendly Hartford Public Library tote bags were given away to those who attended the screening and also to anyone who came to any branch on Earth Day itself, April 22.

In recognition of National Homeownership Month (June), the Library hosted the Hartford-area launch of *Own It, Keep It!*, an innovative campaign to promote responsible and informed home ownership. A homebuyer/homeowner workshop followed the event and will be repeated in the fall. For entrepreneurs and small business owners, the Connecticut Small Business Development Center's four-part *Entrepreneurial Education Series* and the Connecticut Community Investment Corporation's *Business Plan Basics* were repeated. Abby Marks Beale, who presented a popular speed reading workshop in February, returned to present *Beyond Overload: Ten Secrets to Get Back Control*. Attendees learned strategies to reduce personal

and work-related stress; manage time, email, and reading workloads; and make smarter health choices. A second *Return to College Learning Fair* attracted almost 200 people, twice the attendance of the first event.

After an absence of many years, the Library revived the adult summer reading initiative under the Collaborative Summer Library Program, this year with the theme, *Water Your Mind...READ!* In conjunction with this, every other week, staff presented *Lunch & Listen: Water Your Mind*, a story time for adults, patterned after a program at Seattle Public Library. Short stories with water in the title as well as excerpts from *To Kill A Mockingbird* – to commemorate the novel's fiftieth anniversary – were read. Plans are to continue *Lunch & Listen* throughout the year to give it time to develop a following and as it is easily adaptable thematically (*Lunch & Listen: One Book* and *The Big Listen*, for example) and has the potential to have guest readers from the community or the stage. Participants in both the reading and listening portions of *Water Your Mind...READ!* were eligible to win prizes, including stainless steel water bottles and canvas tote bags, both with the Library's logo, and tee shirts with the reading initiative's logo. Staff reported that when customers saw these items on display at the service desks, they wanted to buy them, but they were conscientiously told, "No, just read a book!"

Upcoming events include:

- a new, three-part series, *Grow Your Business with Social Media*;
- *Arts and Archives* fine arts and humanities classes and seminars funded in part by the Library Services and Construction Act (LSTA) of the Institute of Museum and Library Services,
- *Career Development for the Fine Artist* and *Creative Journaling with Mandalas*, two of several workshops complementing *Arts and Archives*,
- a panel presentation by representatives of the Connecticut Film Industry Training Program (FITP) following film screenings as a part of the *Silk City Flick Fest*,
- author events marking Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) and Mental Illness Awareness Week (October 3-9),
- extra job and career workshops for Career Development Month (November),
- *Finding Calm in the Chaos* and *Stress Management for Job Seekers*, as customers continue to look for help de-stressing,
- Zumba® Gold at the Goodwin Branch.

## **Youth Services**

Enrichment programs for school-aged children and teens in fourth quarter focused on poetry (April), nature (May), and films based on books (June) In April, students created “poetry pebbles,” read aloud from the poetry of Langston Hughes and Nikki Grimes, and celebrated Shakespeare’s birthday. In May, they read together outside and made “s’mores;” wrote nature poems; pressed flowers; took a walk to the Park River; and learned about animals, from fireflies to Indian elephants. In June, they enjoyed book discussions and film versions of Caps for Sale, Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Kidnapped, among others.

In the same time period, Big Read youth programs brought the Adventures of Tom Sawyer to the attention of a new generation of readers. These included *Green Worms, Warts, and Haunted Houses*, a discussion of superstitions followed by the creation of “lucky charms;” *Sentimental Favorites*, which featured readings of “love” scenes from the book and assembly of early Victorian collage valentines; *Ghastly Graveyard Lockdown*, a night-time telling of scary stories by Lott Therio in the closed Downtown Library; *Life on the River*, a discussion and mapping of the Mississippi, followed by a trip on a small boat down the Connecticut River; *Keep’m Laughing*, a discussion of the slapstick humor in the work, followed by a clowning class taught by a professional actor; and *Picturing Tom*, a review of major illustrators’ portrayal of the title character and a drawing activity, followed by a family field trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Staff members facilitating these and other programs were struck by the number of children and teens who not only read the work, but very much enjoyed it, and the great ethnic diversity of the families and children attracted to the discussions and other activities. The field trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum, for example, drew recent arrivals from Somalia, Bosnia, Peru, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, West Africa, and the Caribbean.

Collaborations with Hartford Public Schools resulted in a “College Bowl”-type academic competition in April and a show of student artwork in May, both held at the Downtown Library. Collaboration with the Mayor’s Office for Young Children resulted in another successful Family Fair, held on May 1, as well as ongoing activities for home day care providers. Collaboration with the Mayor’s Office for Youth Services is resulting in increased use of the Library by summer programs throughout the City.

Our ability to connect Hartford children and teens with the library and literature, either through our own enrichment programs or through our partnerships, is reflected in this fiscal year’s strong

youth program attendance (67,700, up from 43,600 last year) and youth materials circulation (132,00, up from 131,000 last year).

### ***Community Development and Civic Services***

In June, the Library received a Top Innovations Award for HartfordInfo.org from the Urban Libraries Council. Over 200 nominations were made nationwide out of which twelve awards were given. The Library was the winner in the Civic and Community Engagement category. Matt Poland, Mary Crean, and Richard Frieder traveled to Washington DC at the end of June to accept the award. Other award winners included some of the finest public libraries in the country including the Brooklyn Public Library, Queens Library, Cleveland Public Library, and San Francisco Public Library, among others. The award will be recognized at the September 13 meeting of the Hartford City Council. The President of ULC, Susan Benton, will attend. We anticipate that the award will enhance and support fund raising efforts to sustain HartfordInfo.org, which currently receives about 1.3 million hits and 10,000 – 15,000 visits each month. For the fiscal year just completed, there was a 57% increase in total hits on HartfordInfo.org.

Two other significant developments occurred in the fourth quarter with regard to HartfordInfo.org. First, a user survey was completed in which over 130 people participated. While not a random sample survey, the results were useful nonetheless. Among the general comments received: “Fantastic site...so much information specific to each Hartford neighborhood.” “Incredibly useful, easy to use, and enormously full of relevant and interesting information about my home town. Thank you!” “I think this is a wonderful site and a fabulous public service!” Second, a decision was made to subscribe to PolicyMap, a web-based interactive mapping service. Once the service is up and running in the fall, users of HartfordInfo.org will be able to create and view maps based on data that they select. Accessing this service through a vendor will cost the Library a small fraction of the expense of creating it ourselves. This new feature will be a significant enhancement to the site and will be popular with users.

The Library continued its involvement in Hartford’s *One City, One Plan* process by hosting the One City, One Plan Celebration on June 3. About 60 people came to the Library to celebrate the official adoption of the *Plan*, which has been developed by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a great deal of input from the community over the past year. The Library will also be hosting a public program in the fall focusing on implementation of the *Plan*.

Two *Democracy in Action* programs were held in the fourth quarter, both in collaboration with the Hartford Votes~Hartford Vota Coalition. A Meet & Greet event for candidates for Governor was held on June 8. Candidates Ned Lamont, Dan Malloy, and Oz Griebel all attended and addressed an audience of about 90 people. On June 15 a Meet & Greet event for Secretary of State candidates was held, drawing a crowd of about 45 to hear candidates Denise Merrill, Gerry Garcia, and Jerry Farrell.

As an outgrowth of discussions with Congressman John Larson and his staff that began with his participation in a program at the Library on job creation earlier this year, the Congressman visited the Library on June 1. Matt Poland, Mary Crean, and Richard Frieder had a good discussion with Mr. Larson about the state of libraries, the Hartford community, and other issues. He expressed a particular interest in ensuring that Hartford area libraries, museums, and schools take full advantage of the resources available from the Library of Congress and National Archives. We look forward to working with the Congressman on these and other issues in the future.

In June we concluded a series of very useful meetings with community leaders. Organized at the suggestion of Matt Poland, the meetings provided an opportunity for the community leaders to meet Matt and hear about the Library, a chance for Matt to learn more about community issues, and an opportunity to discuss possible collaborations. Some of the community leaders met with included: Bernadine Silvers, Joe Barber, and Linda Bayer of Hartford 2000, Marilyn Rossetti of HART, Hyacinth Yennie of the MARG NRZ, I. Charles Mathews of the Northeast NRZ, Doug Sudell of Hands on Hartford, Jim Starr of Achieve Hartford, and Rex Fowler of the Hartford Community Loan Fund and the Vine/Central Blockwatch.

After several months of planning in collaboration with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University and with Everyday Democracy, the Library offered its first community dialogues in April and June on the topic of *Youth of Incarcerated Parents*. The community dialogue process, which Everyday Democracy has used all over the country, employs structured, facilitated small group discussions including a diverse range of perspectives and leading towards action steps. This approach can be used for any topic and is exciting because it is a way that the Library can help enable people move beyond talk to take action of their choosing. Well over 100 people participated in the April and June dialogues, which will be continued in the fall.

We continued to implement the Library's new community outreach model in the fourth quarter. This model updates and improves upon the Neighborhood Teams and it will enable the Library to deliver outreach services more efficiently and effectively. For the quarter, Library staff engaged in relationships (e.g., collaborated on programs, attended meetings, or engaged in other activities) with Non-Profit Organizations 157 times, with Community Organizations 64 times, with Government 22 times, and with Youth Service Providers & Organizations two times. As we are still in the first year of implementation no previous year comparative data is available.

In the first quarter of the new fiscal year, several *Democracy in Action* programs will be held including candidate forums and Voter Registration Day, as well as an event commemorating Banned Books Week. The community dialogues on the *Youth of Incarcerated Parents* will continue and work will begin towards launching dialogues on another topic yet to be determined. Most of these programs and activities will occur in collaboration with a variety of other organizations based on the many strong relationships we continue to build on an ongoing basis. In the first quarter we will also be working on a business plan and fund raising for HartfordInfo.org, and on implementing PolicyMap.

### ***Readers Services***

This fiscal year 33,190 new adult and youth items were added to the library's collection. These system wide acquisitions included 24,400 books, 6,400 DVDS, 2,100 CDS, and 300 audio books. Technical Services staff continues to balance public service hours with the delivery of materials to the community in a timely manner.

In conjunction with adding materials 18, 800 were weeded or de-accessioned as long overdue or lost resources and removed from the catalog. The patron records that were linked to the withdrawn billed items were also deleted as inactive and expired. Analysis of the more current customer database shows that 85% of adult card holders and 92% of youth are Hartford residents.

System wide adult circulation was off slightly (-2%) at year end, but there were wide variations within categories. Fiction circulation has increased somewhat overall (+1%) while nonfiction activity downtown continued the declining trend (-8%) that started last year; general adult book circulation decreased (-18%) compared with the same period last year. Spanish language material circulation decreased a disappointing (-44%) for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and (-15%) at year end. In response, we will re-direct some of the collection appropriation from non-fiction to areas of

higher need, use and appeal. Staff has identified a vendor that specializes in the sale of Spanish language books specific to Puerto Rico and we have already placed a substantial order as a start to this targeted plan to infuse and strengthen this collection. Staff also is currently evaluating a financial literacy selection list provided by Bilingual Publications, one of our primary Spanish language distributors. A group from the Spanish speaking community contacted Park Branch indicating their desire to read literary works; the Library has purchased multiple copies of a dozen titles identified by this newly-formed book discussion group. With the new fiscal year we have started to purchase more duplicates of high demand items, and are now extending collections of urban fiction to all sites and placing orders pre-publication for this genre since we have noted high activity at all branch locations, which indicates a broader appeal than originally believed. Staff responsible for adult collection management are evaluating statistics and conducting ongoing discussions about ways to move the circulation activity levels in the upward direction.

With the plan to relocate new book shelving closer to the downtown service desk, staff will continue to push the collection through interaction with customers and targeted displays that encompass the depth and breathe of fiction genres and subject areas. Moving the world language collection to the main floor will also enhance customer assistance with the Spanish language collection. The proposed major upgrade to our integrated library system combined with new technology and a revamped website will allow staff to regularly offer featured titles and new acquisitions lists and highlight support materials for major programs to assist customers with their material selections. New software and wireless technology will be the key to an effective, accurate inventory of all materials that will facilitate the shift and relocation of collections downtown and will lead to a more accurate and updated catalog of our holdings.

## **Arts, Cultural and Heritage Programs**

### **Connecticut Book Festival (CBF)**

The Planning Committee has hired a part-time person to assist with clerical and promotional needs for this May 2011 inaugural initiative. Letterhead is being printed, and postcard invitations will go out in September for the November 20 fundraising reception at the Town & County Club, at which Honorary Chair Wally Lamb will speak. Tickets will cost \$75.

Because 2011 will be the occasion of the first Connecticut Book Festival, the tenth Connecticut Book Awards, the twentieth Connecticut Children's Book Fair, and the twenty-fifth anniversary of

the founding of the ABC's (American Book Collectors of Children's Literature), a proclamation acknowledging 2011 as Connecticut's Year of the Book will be sought by the State Librarian.

### **The Big Read**

28,367 adults and 12,815 children attended the 496 programs offered for 2009-2010, our Big Read of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, this was a 45% increase over the number of programs and events offered the previous year.

Dana Gioia, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, will be the keynote speaker at the April 11, 2011 kick-off of the communal read of *Sun, Stone, and Shadows*, an anthology of short stories by contemporary Mexican writers. Our major programming partner for our fifth Big Read is Trinity College; most programs and events will take place in April. The Bridgeport and Willimantic libraries—whose communities have sizeable Mexican populations—will join Greater Hartford colleagues in this endeavor.

### **ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library**

"Hartford Treasures: Art and Artifacts on the ArtWalk with a Special Tribute to Richard Welling" was a major success. More than 200 people attended the opening reception in early June and the exhibition continues to draw throughout the summer months. Tom Condon provided some wonderful memories of Richard Welling during the remarks portion of the reception and members of the Welling family came from all over the country to attend the night's festivities. Their feedback has been particularly positive and moving.

Andrew Kyle Phillips will close out the year with an exhibition of his paintings this October.

There will be an "open call" to artists for exhibitions in 2011.

### **Hartford History Center**

#### **City and Town Clerk Papers**

The HHC received a grant of \$15,000 from the Hartford Foundation to support the processing and preservation of the City and Town Clerk Papers, currently housed in the Municipal Building. This award allows the HHC to hire Wilson Faude as the archival associate for this project. This historically rich archive will move from the Municipal Building to the Hartford Public Library this fall. An electronic finding aid has been prepared so researchers will have access to a large

number of historic documents almost immediately, once it is secured in the library. Faude has worked on this collection for the last four years, preserving and arranging the documents and readying them for transfer. There are still records that need to be processed and we are delighted to welcome him on board to continue his good work.

## **Programs**

Planning is under way for the statewide commemoration of the start of the Civil War in April 2011 – Dr. Matt Warshauer was the speaker at the Hartford History Center Advisory Committee meeting held this July. HHC committee members and the curator are developing HHC programming to complement Dr. Warshauer’s commemoration events. Dr. Warshauer will include the HHC programming in a grant he is preparing for the Connecticut Humanities Council.

## **Development**

### **Grant Status**

**Pending**— Grant applications with a total request amount of \$1,128,570 - \$1,193,570 are pending approval. Among the proposals are requests: to **Bank of America Neighborhood Builders** for building capacity for adult literacy (\$200,000); a request to the **Best Buy** (\$10,000) to support improved access to technology and school success through a technology design station for teens, an iMac with photo, video, music ,graphic design and fashion; **McPhee Foundation** (\$15,000) in support of afterschool homework clubs, “McPhee Homework Clubs,” at all 10 sites staffed by the Library’s Hartford teens hired for the positive youth development/employment program, the Teen Leaders Initiative.

**Received**—The Library recently received notification of three awards totaling \$55,000. The awards include two awards from **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving**, (\$30,000) in support of technology for the purchase of 11 Advanced Workstations in Education (AWE); **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving** (\$15,000) in support of the moving of the City’s Vital Papers to the Hartford History Center; new funder **Wachovia/Wells Fargo** (\$10,000) in support of the Teen Leaders Program, which will enabled the Library to add five additional students. Grants confirmed for FY 09-10: \$639,906.

## **Individual Giving**

For FY 09-10 total individual giving for appeals (\$51,405.51). This total includes the fall, spring and summer appeals. Compared to FY 08-09 total individual giving for appeals (\$20,076.35) for a difference of (\$31,329.16) or an increase of 156%.

*Other individual giving revenue:* (\$8,299.81); **ArtWalk** (\$6,239), Hartford History Center (\$50,150) *Total Revenue for individual giving (FY 09-10 YTD):* \$116,094.32.

## **Events**

### ***One Big Summer Night***

It was one unforgettable evening June 24, 2010 at the Connecticut Convention Center as 450 guests celebrated Hartford Public Library's "**One Unforgettable Big Summer Night**" fundraiser that featured Julie Powell, *New York Times* best-selling author of "Julie and Julia: Sponsors included CL & P, Travelers, The Hartford, CIGNA, Webster Bank and Fiduciary Investment Advisors LLC. Total revenue: \$121,486 (Individual ticket sales: \$45,875, Sponsorships: \$32,500, Program Ads: \$8,500, Individual donations, raffle: \$7,786 and Auction proceeds \$26,825 (for every dollar spent \$1.47 was earned). The net profit was \$72,304 which was a 95.5% increase from the projected net profit. Compared to 2009's net of \$17,800, there was a 306.2% increase.

## ***Media***

### **May 2010**

WFSB 3 - Library and Hartford Hospital's Mobile Mammography

*Real Hartford blog* - "An Unforgettable Night with Julie" – June 24<sup>th</sup> One Big Summer Night with Julie Powell

*Hartford Courant* - "Artwalk Exhibit at Hartford Public Library"

### **June 2010**

*CT News Junkie* - **One unforgettable Big Summer Night**

*Hartford Courant* - "City Hires New Head Librarian"

WFSB 3 - Better Connecticut: Interview with Mary Crean, **One unforgettable Big Summer**

**Night**

*Hartford Courant* - Java: **One** unforgettable **Big Summer Night**

*Hartford Courant* - "One Book Read On?"

## **July 2010**

*Hartford Business Journal* - "The Hartford Foundation Awards \$850,000 TO 29 Libraries"

*RealHartford* - "Pick Your Political Poison"

*Hartford Courant* - "Library Story Hour for Adults: 'Water Your Mind...Listen!'"

## **August 2010**

*New York Times* - "At Company, A Culture Of Family And Charity"

NBC 30 - Our Piece of the Pie and Hartford Public Library's Youth Summer Mural Project

## **Facilities**

### ***Albany Avenue***

Construction bids to be reviewed in early summer. Project on schedule to be completed by Fall 2011.

### ***Parkville***

The City of Hartford will fund expansion of the branch. Construction documents are in process.

## **Safety and Security**

The Library had (14) reportable incidents in the fourth calendar quarter. Eight (8) reports were filed at the Downtown facility, three (3) reports of disturbance, three (3) medical emergencies, one (1) accident, and one (1) harassment. The Hartford Police Department assisted with one incident.

Six (6) reports were filed by branches:

- Albany – employee fainted near book stacks.
- Barbour (2) – young girl was disrespectful to staff when told she couldn't use pc during the closing of branch, and a young group of girls stole books from the branch.
- Camp Field (2) – employee was threatened by another employee's girlfriend, and a young man was asked to leave the branch for using inappropriate language.

- Mark Twain – customer brought in DVDs claimed to be found in trash outside branch.

## Staff Development

**Marian Amodeo** began employment as chief public services officer on July 6, 2010.

**Brenda Miller**, Hartford History Center Curator, accepted an invitation to join the 20-member Board of Directors of the League of Connecticut History Organizations. This is a wonderful opportunity to become more aware of heritage resources, funding and collections statewide, as well as help the HHC build stronger relationships/ collaborations with heritage-based institutions.

Curator Brenda Miller is part of a four-member team that presents a series of statewide workshops throughout the year on digitizing collections. She is joined by members of the Connecticut Humanities Council, Connecticut History Online, and the Connecticut State Library to help inform librarians and archivists on how to create a repository of digital images to complement and illustrate articles and entries for an online encyclopedia of state history as well as provide images for the Treasures of Connecticut Libraries maintained by the Connecticut State Library.