

IT ALL HAPPENS at HPL

A GUIDE TO HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer 2017



READ. GO. DO.

SUMMER LEARNING, pg. 4



STORY
CORPS
JUSTICE
PROJECT

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GET WITH
THE TIMES:
A NEW
EXHIBITION

Pg. 14



WALLY LAMB
INVITES YOU
**BEYOND
WORDS**

BACK COVER



The community is our only no-risk investment.

As proud members of the Hartford community, we’re committed to making our region a better place to live and work.



WELCOME

from CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey



Public libraries enthusiastically serve our diverse and changing neighborhoods and communities in many different ways. Libraries are community centers and education hubs, and provide a broad range of essential services that are free and available to all. At the Hartford Public Library we offer literacy programs, adult basic education classes including pre-GED and GED preparation, language learning classes, access to community health care and legal information, job seeking services, access to technology and computers, cultural and civic engagement programs and exhibits, the Hartford History Center, resources for non-English speakers, guidance for pathways to citizenship, and passports. We are committed to creating meaningful and impactful learning experiences for children and young people, from preschoolers through teens and college, or career-ready young adults. And of course there are collections—books, online learning databases, DVDs, audiobooks, e-books, journals, magazines, music scores, archives, microforms and newspapers.

We provide these services, programs, and collections to ensure that all residents can learn, succeed, and thrive. Libraries are the great equalizer, the cornerstone of our democracy. There is no other place that can and does provide the breadth and depth of informational and educational resources and services that libraries provide. And it’s free. In multiple formats, multiple languages, and multiple points of view. This is critical to ensure that *all* people, regardless of their socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, ethnic background or country of origin, political viewpoint, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status, have a welcoming place where they can find trustworthy, professionally vetted information. This is what public libraries in the United States are all about.

We value facts and diverse perspectives—giving all who enter through our doors, our catalogs, or our websites the opportunity to find quality information and the help of dedicated, trained, caring staff. The services provided by public libraries are needed now more than ever.

At HPL, we are here for you, and thank you all for your support.

Bridget Quinn-Carey
Chief Executive Officer

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Cover: Photo by Andy Hart



READ. GO.

DO.



Summer Learning Kickoff Celebrations, 2015–2016. Photos by Pramod Pradhan.

SO, WHAT COUNTS AS A SUMMER LEARNING GOAL?

ANYTHING YOU CAN READ. GO. DO!

- ☐ **READ** *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine
- ☐ **GO** get a library card
- ☐ **DO** a picnic in a city park
- ☐ **READ** the graphic novel *March*, by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
- ☐ **GO** to an event in your community (visit summer.hplct.org for ideas)
- ☐ **DO** a community clean-up day
- ☐ **READ** *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- ☐ **SUBMIT** your completed goals and come cheer for the Hartford Yard Goats on August 31!

This year, summer learning is all about your goals, your dreams, and your ability to make it all happen.

We want to support you with whatever pursuits you have this summer. Writing a book? Stop by the Library and chat with a local author. Want to learn coding? Drop by your neighborhood branch and get started. Looking for a hot, new bestseller? Ask your community librarian.

Completing summer learning goals can earn you a ticket to the August 31st Hartford Yard Goats game! Parade with us to the park, grab some local grub, cheer for the team, and stay for the fireworks! What better way to celebrate your accomplishments than a day at the ballpark?

Track your completed summer learning goals on paper or at hplct.beanstack.org. Show a Library worker your accomplishments by August 28th for a ticket to the Yard Goats game. We have 799 tickets. First come, first served.

StoryCorps

PRESERVING HUMANITY'S STORIES



Since 2003, StoryCorps has recorded intimate conversations between two people at a time. Some are broadcast on public radio. All receive a CD of their chat, and the talks are archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

In late March, eight pairs of people met at the Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library as part of the StoryCorps Justice Project. The topic in common was the impact of the criminal justice system on their lives. Some participants had served time. Some worked in prisons. Others met through the Judy Dworin Performance Project (JDPP), a Hartford-based nonprofit that uses arts intervention to help families impacted by incarceration tell their stories.

These conversations can be heard in full at the Hartford History Center at the Downtown Library, where they will be additionally archived. Once edited, they will be available to the public on the History Center's online digital repository.

Here is a brief look at some of their stories.

Victoria Steele and Suzi Jenson met as participants in the Judy Dworin Performance Project. Victoria served time in prison for substance abuse, leading to a difficult relationship with her daughter. Suzi's mother was a repeat offender and they are estranged. Their theater pieces in JDPP's Bridging Boundaries program helped reveal issues they both needed to work through.

"I was too sick to realize the effect that I had on my daughter," Victoria says. "She would wait for me and I wouldn't show up. I thought I was only hurting me. When I got help, I became accountable." Victoria then addressed Suzi: "I know your mother and I know she loves you, but there is something else going on. She needs help."

Suzi was 12 when her mother went away. "I know that I needed my mother to complete my growing process. I needed her to teach me, for her to know how much I wanted her. My entire life I have craved for my mother to want me as much as you want your daughter."

Robin Cullen and Mariann Hudak met through a Mothers Against Drunk Driving presentation. Mariann's 21-year-old daughter, Lori, was killed in 2001 when a drunken friend crashed her car into a pole. Robin was sentenced in 1996 after her drunken driving conviction. Her crash claimed the life of her girlfriend. She was sentenced to eight years, served three, and her probation required 100 hours of community service.

"I was a speaker for a MADD program called *Hard Truth in the High Schools*," Mariann says. "I knew there would be an offender sharing the stage. I was apprehensive."

Robin says, "I was told I would be speaking with a mom who lost a daughter... I have to say I was more scared going to that high school talk with you than I was to go to jail."

After they shared their stories, Mariann hugged Robin and thanked her. She said that she wished the young woman who was driving her daughter's car would share her story, too.

"That gave me the permission to keep sharing," Robin says. "We're trying to save others from having this same experience."

Cathy Malloy and Tracie Bernadi first met at York Correctional. Tracie was serving a 23-year term for murder. At 19 and in the Los Solidas gang, she was one of four women convicted for stabbing another woman in a fight over a man. Tracie struggled with depression and attempted suicide many times in prison.

Malloy, wife of Governor Dannel Malloy and director of the Greater Hartford Arts Council, met her at York. Tracie was involved with the Judy Dworin project. After the performance Cathy greeted the performers. "The minute I saw Tracie I fell in love with her. It was just something that fell out of the sky," Cathy says. "Being the wife of the governor we had extra protection, but I gravitated to the women."

"You weren't supposed to engage with us," Tracie says. "The body guard didn't like it, but you didn't care."



Ralph and Abby Gagliardo. Opposite, left to right: Victoria Steele and Suzi Jenson; Robin Cullen and Mariann Hudak; Cathy Malloy and Tracie Bernadi. Photos by StoryCorps

They kept in touch. Tracie has been out almost two years, is attending college, and working.

"Going to visit York and hearing the stories of the women you see the effects of incarceration," Cathy says. "My husband and I are working hard to change the criminal justice system. Some of my inspiration comes from Tracie."

Ralph Gagliardo and Abby Gagliardo are father and daughter. They describe their relationship as close now, but it was not when Ralph served time in prison. Abby lived with her grandmother and later, with Ralph's sister. Abby, 16, will be a junior at East Hartford High School. Ralph is finishing up his Associates Degree at Goodwin College and hopes to continue his education. He is writing a book about his life, *Confessions of a Scrap Metal Junkie*.

Abby remembers visiting her father at Walker, a maximum security prison. "It wasn't the way it was on TV. They don't make it real. It's scary and uncomfortable."

Ralph said he was in and out of jail and served about three years overall. His daughter had no idea that he was addicted to heroin.

"I would never do that," Abby says of using drugs. "I am really proud of you for getting past it. I thought you were in jail for stealing and selling metal. I didn't know about the drugs."

Ralph replied, "When you are an addict you go to extreme measures to get money. You always need money."

The father and daughter are closer now. Ralph tried writing to her but she didn't write back. "People are so different in person than on paper," Abby explains. "Looking into someone's eyes and speaking to them is a really deep emotional connection there. I could see the dumb faces you make or hear your laugh when I tell a silly joke. Or see the way your forehead has funny lines on it. I just read the words you said. There is a difference. I can feel it."

Edited versions of select StoryCorps Justice stories recorded at the Hartford Public Library were featured June 14-15 at "Reimagining Justice, a conversation on the national impact of crime and incarceration," hosted by Governor Dannel Malloy and First Lady Cathy Malloy at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. Information: <http://portal.ct.gov/reimaginingjustice>

YOUTH SERVICES

Lina Osho-Williams was born and raised in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Her learning there started early. Almost from the time she was born, Lina's grandmother read rhymes and sang songs to her, and instilled in her a lifelong love of reading. After graduating from college with a major in English, she and her husband Cecil, a high school teacher, and their daughter Olayinka, were forced to leave their homeland when rebel forces made it too dangerous to stay. They relocated to Gambia as refugees.

Never too young TO LEARN



Lina Osho-Williams. Photo by Donna Larcen

LEAP INTO LEARNING

Part of Youth and Family Services is a program started here at HPL called Leap Into Learning. This incredible program prepares children in Hartford to enter kindergarten. This program serves several audiences: children from birth to 5, their parents and adult caregivers, and youth and family community organizations. Leap Into Learning offers story times, parent workshops, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten @ HPL, books, and other learning materials.

Under Marie Jarry, Director of Central Public Services, Hartford Public Library has become a leader in promoting reading to children. Says Jarry, "It's one of the best ways to prepare them for kindergarten. In addition to developing their vocabulary and a love for reading and learning, it also helps to build a bond between parents and their children at an early age. And Lina, like all of the staff here, has what makes HPL so special: a dedication to helping all people learn, grow, and realize their dreams."

Hartford Public Library's Teen Services department provides a wide variety of programs, events, materials, and resources that engage, educate, and inspire Hartford's youth. Our website provides an amazing array of links to websites covering College and Career Prep, Community Engagement, Express Yourself, Hartford Public Schools, Homework Help, Job Careers and Money, Opportunities in American Military, and Scholarships and Financial Aid. But arguably our most important services are the ongoing special programs—like the two highlighted here—and events that take place at our network of branches.

YOUMEDIA

YOUmedia is an exciting nontraditional space, part of our Teen Services programming. YOUmedia Hartford is part of a network of 30 "learning labs" across the country offering 21st century technology, where teenagers can explore, express, and create using digital media. The guiding principle here is that youth are best engaged when they are pursuing their passions, collaborating with their peers, and being makers and doers. YOUmedia Hartford is a welcoming place for the teens (no adults allowed!)—an inclusive physical space set up to encourage exploration, tinkering, and production. To guide the development of our youth and provide some sense of structure, HPL enlists mentors for 3D Design, Illustration, Making, Computer Science, and Music Production.



HPL file photos

TEEN SERVICES

Beyond the digital media learning and its inherent appeal for teenagers is something Tricia George, HPL's Teen Services Director, believes to be even more important for them. "Our teens have developed a culture here that welcomes everyone and brings them into the fold. Neighborhood and school boundaries disappear, and youth connect on their shared interests. The relationships forged here extend well beyond the walls of YOUmedia and the time they spend here."

The strength derived from their community, in combination with the digital media skills they learn, build a platform for these teens to realize their dreams and achieve their goals.

OWL ENRICHMENT CENTER

Established in 2013 with a grant from 21st Century Community Learning, Hartford Public Library conducts an afterschool program at Hartford Public High School for teenagers known as the Owl Enrichment Center. This program brings together HPL professionals and HPHS educators to provide students with academic support as well as enrichment activities. The OEC's activities begin with an academic component tutored by certified teachers. Project-based learning activities are also available, including workshops on college/career planning, SAT preparation, creative writing, and financial literacy. "The enrichment component enlists outside contractors to work with the kids on activities ranging from art and athletics to yoga and photography," says HPL Director of Branch Services Michelle McFarland, who administers the OEC. "We also go on field trips to help students discover exciting things going on in their own backyards—like going behind the scenes at Hartford Stage to see how sets are constructed."

On the ARTWALK

The ArtWalk gallery on the third floor of the Downtown Library is an expansive space overlooking Hartford's Main Street. It is host to five juried shows each year and some shorter pop-up exhibits between shows.



Broad Street, 2010. Pablo Delano

CURRENT EXHIBITION

Pablo Delano, *Hartford Views*

Pablo Delano, a painter-turned-photographer, documents the city of Hartford in flux. His large format photographs, spanning eight years, highlight the nuances and contradictions inherent in a city with a layered history, and record what has been lost over time.

Pablo was born in Puerto Rico; he is the son of Jack Delano, a Russian immigrant who shot photographs for the Farm Security Administration. Pablo received his MFA from Yale and has worked at Trinity since 1996. He has been documenting the ethnic diversity of Hartford, a city with a large Puerto Rican population that began to boom in the mid-20th century as workers came to harvest shade tobacco. They joined the established African American and Portuguese communities, along with West Indians, Vietnamese, Brazilians, Bosnians, Peruvians, and Dominicans.

On view through July 1, 2017.



Top to bottom: Babcock Street, 2010; Florence Street, 2013; Capen Street, 2014. Pablo Delano

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

OCTOBER 20–DECEMBER 2, 2017

Afarin Rahmanifar: *The Memories Between*

Afarin's work reveals iconic female characters that have ties to both Eastern and Western cultures. She tells the stories of women and explores what it means to grow up in hybrid cultures. She deconstructs female figures in patterns, textures, and architectural elements using gold leaf, red sewing machine thread and animation to create layers.

JANUARY 12–FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Robert Charles Hudson: *The Door of No Return*

Robert Charles Hudson presents sculptures of human faces in terracotta. He portrays the last vision enslaved captives saw of their native soil before their transport to the new world.

MARCH 16–APRIL 29, 2018

Marilyn Parkinson Thrall: *Our Public Persona*

Marilyn Parkinson Thrall's sculptures have moved from figures to clothing. She creates dresses void of figure to represent the space between our public and private lives. How we look and what we wear determines who we are in the public eye. She works in monochromatic tones to give the sculptures a ghostlike quality.

MAY 18–JUNE 29, 2018

Adam Viens: *Depressive Realism*

Adam Viens says contemporary art offers its viewers, and those who occupy the environment in which it exists, a unique opportunity for willing contemplation and introspection. In modern society, it often takes an unforeseen disturbance from life's routines to evoke the emotional and intellectual responses that are essential for the human psyche to reflect, adapt, and grow. Experiencing art fosters these reactions, thereby creating an occasion for gaining wisdom with less conflict.

MAPS FOR ALL

Literacy isn't just reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Geographic literacy gives us a deeper understanding of global issues and our place in the larger world.

Dr. Louise Loomis, founder of the ThinkWell Center, started the Maps for All initiative when she found that many of her students had little understanding of geography. The World Affairs Council of Connecticut includes Maps for All in its umbrella of services and makes sure audiences have appropriate maps when speakers from other countries are making presentations.

In March, Hartford Public Library welcomed the M4A program, and distributed world maps to all its branches. The Downtown Library has a magnetic map and often uses it during programs, asking immigrants to mark their home countries.

The Park Branch, in the Frog Hollow neighborhood, displays its world map near the computer signup station. Students create flags from their family's country of origin and mark the spot on the map with a pin. They use a *Flags of the World* book for reference and learn some facts about their homelands.

Also featured is Laura Ljungkvist's *Follow the Line Around the World*, which uses a line to lead readers to learn about animals and their habitats in Kenya, Greenland, Egypt, the Amazon rainforest, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Antarctica, Russia, Australia, New York City, and then outer space. Readers can follow the journey on the world map.

At the Ropkins Branch in the Clay Arsenal neighborhood visitors can participate in *What in the...Where?* Librarians set out a world map on the circulation desk. Patrons are asked to pick out a country unknown to them. Librarians research the country and the country is marked on the map with a pink arrow and highlighted.



Park Branch file photo

At the Albany Branch in the Upper Albany neighborhood, students respond to the question: "If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?" Greece, Holland, New York City, Florida, Disney World, and Italy, are among the answers, which are pasted on a large picture window.

At the Goodwin Branch in Hartford's Southwest neighborhood, the Library is increasing global awareness by encouraging visitors to identify their place of birth, residence, and places they have traveled by marking locations with a sticky note and a brief description.

For more information on Maps for All, see <http://www.ctvac.org/maps/>



BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

At The Hartford, we're proud to partner with the Hartford Public Library and our neighbors to build stronger communities together. We focus our time, talent and resources on collaborative programs to enrich lives in the places we call home.

THEHARTFORD.COM

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HARTFORD TIMES

The Newspaper and the City



Hartford Times Press Worker, 1975. Photo by David Ploss

“News is an immortal bubble
and the press endures within.”

Ralph Milne Calder

EXHIBIT DATES:
July 15–September 30

The Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library is opening its exhibit *Hartford Times: The Newspaper and the City* on July 15th to celebrate the history of this former daily afternoon newspaper and the building it called home.

The new downtown campus of the University of Connecticut is situated on the site of the *Hartford Times* building on Prospect Street, across from Hartford Public Library.

The exhibition includes panels with historic photos, artifacts, and a hand press, all from the Hartford History Center’s collections, to demonstrate the importance of newspapers and how printing technology has evolved. After the exhibit’s September 30th closing, the printing press will remain on display in the Arch Street lobby, connecting visitors to the rich historical resources located in the Library’s third floor history center.

The exhibit will be organized in two sections: the *Hartford Times* newspaper and the evolution of printing technology; and the *Hartford Times* building and its importance as a backdrop to history. During its run, there will be talks on printing history and changing technology in the publishing field.

The *Hartford Times* served its readers from 1817 to 1976. In 1920, it moved into the Prospect Street location in a building designed by Donn Barber, who was also responsible for the Travelers Tower, the State Library, and the Supreme Court building.

The front of the building displays impressive beaux arts columns, originally part of the Madison Square Presbyterian Church in New York City. Barber acquired the pale green columns and used them, with pilasters and steps from the church, as the front façade of the building. The walls behind

the columns were decorated with six mural panels designed by Ralph Milne Calder (uncle of Alexander Calder), including “News Is an Immortal Bubble.” The portico made for a scenic setting for political speeches, most famously by U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy the day before he was elected president in November, 1960; by President Lyndon B. Johnson in September 1964; and by President Harry S Truman in 1952.

Hartford’s newspapers have a long history. The rival *Hartford Courant*, the oldest continuously published newspaper in the U.S., began in 1764. The *Hartford Times* was started by Frederick D. Bolles and John M. Niles as a weekly. It billed itself as “the people’s paper” and editorialized for reform. The *Times* became a daily paper in 1841 under editor Alfred Burr. (The Burr Mall, site of Alexander Calder’s

sculpture *Stegosaurus*, sits across the street from the *Times* building.) The two papers were fierce rivals in the mid-19th century as Hartford became a strong industrial city with Samuel Colt’s factory, a growing insurance business, banking and publishing.

The *Times* led in circulation for much of that time. At the end of World War II The *Times* counted 85,000 subscribers to The *Courant*’s 46,000. By 1965 The *Courant*’s circulation was 136,000 compared to The *Times*’ 134,000. The *Times* began to lose ground, dropping to 69,000 in 1976 (its final year) compared to The *Courant*’s 183,000.

The *Hartford Times* exhibition will be part of ongoing tours for the UConn community as it gets ready to open its new campus.



The Hartford Times Celebrates National Newspaper Week, 1946.

TOGETHER, GREATNESS IS POSSIBLE

When it comes to helping people lead healthier lives, knowledge is power. So we're pleased to be partnering with the Hartford Public Library to create resources that help families make better decisions about their health. Together, through our Cigna Keeps Hartford Healthy program, we're making our community a stronger, healthier place to live.

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Together, all the way.®

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FriendZWorldMusic

WORLD OF SOUNDS

Music for the people

Hartford Public Library's World of Sounds concerts bring together musicians and music aficionados across boundaries of race, age, and economic circumstance. Our outdoor lunchtime performances provide opportunities for exposure to styles of music from far-flung corners of the globe, filtered through the prism of local talent. This year, World of Sounds will feature the music of Africa, Latin and South America, and Europe, as well as indigenous American music and modern America's original art form, jazz.

These concerts are open and free to all, held on the Terrace overlooking Main Street, where both locals and commuters congregate during lunchtime in the summer. Find the complete listing at hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits



HIGHLIGHT: *Fête de la Musique*

Fête de la Musique, or World Music Day, began in Paris in 1982 as an annual celebration of music, free and open to the public. This year, HPL joins this now-worldwide celebration with a midday, open-air performance by Chat Noir.

Chat Noir plays music from a variety of European traditions, including classic Italian, French, and Russian folk tunes.

Wednesday, June 21, 12:00–1:30 pm

CLA Volunteer of the Year

GREGORY C. DAVIS

Hartford Public Library Board President Gregory C. Davis was named Volunteer of the Year by the Connecticut Library Association at its annual meeting on May 5.

Greg joined the HPL board in 2006, serving as president from 2009–2011 and returning to that post in 2015. He was cited for his life-long commitment to the community, the welfare of its children, and his steady leadership.

In a reception at the Library to celebrate the award, Hartford’s Matt Ritter, Democratic Majority leader in Connecticut’s House of Representatives, presented a State Proclamation recognizing Greg’s dedication to public libraries. In a Facebook post, Matt wrote: “To know Greg is to love him and I hope you will join me in congratulating him on this well deserved honor.”

Greg grew up in Hartford’s North End neighborhood. When he was a student at Weaver High School he took part in an Upward Bound college prep program that included a summer enrichment program at the University of Connecticut.

He said in a newspaper interview, “It took a lot of kids from an inner-city environment and put them on a college campus. For many of us, it was our first exposure to a college campus. And it made us believe this could be us.”

He reflected on that experience last year in remarks following the signing agreement to bring the UConn downtown campus library into Hartford Public Library.



Greg Davis. Photo by Kenyon Grant

“I love the library. I love my UConn Huskies and I love the city of Hartford,” Greg said. “This urban educational partnership is a win-win-win for all involved.”

Greg, who transferred to Loomis Chaffee School in 1980 following his UConn experience, went on to say, “What I am most excited about is our building will be bustling with college students and our young people will be inspired and motivated, and be dreaming about going to college, especially UConn.

“The opportunity we have is to change lives, not only for the college students but for the younger students who need hope. We can’t quantify what that exposure will mean. As a kid who grew up in this city it will mean a lot.”

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SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH!

HPL Open House
September 15, 2017

at your neighborhood branch

Save the Date!

11.29.17

Save the date for this year's big evening at the Marriott Downtown Hartford.

Beyond Words is Hartford Public Library's annual signature fundraising event. The Library goes beyond words, every day, with diverse and transformative programs and services for our community. All of our locations offer a welcoming, inspiring, and nurturing environment for people to learn, connect and engage... and all for free. We are truly a place like no other.

*Image: (front cover) Author Wally Lamb was the featured author at the first **Beyond Words** event in 2016.*

Learn more: contact Gilda Roncari, Director of Donor Relations, 860.695.6296 or groncari@hplct.org

beyond words

