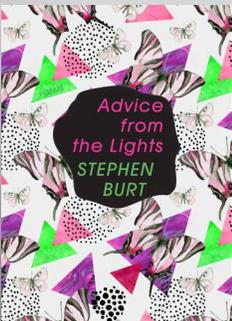


# HPL MAGAZINE

## WOVEN THREADS, WOVEN LIVES

COMMUNITY BANNER CELEBRATES  
DIVERSITY AND INTERCONNECTIVITY

MAKE YOUR SUMMER READ THE BIG READ



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SUMMER 2019



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## Nothing Beats the Summer Heat Better Than a Good Story

### A good story is a treasure anytime of the year but

there is something about summer and the slower pace of our day that lends itself to distraction. Below are some recommendations for a good read or listen. So, when you're finished with The Big Read summer selection *Advice from the Lights* (see page 4), check out the following:

#### BOOKS

##### ***Normal People*, by Sally Rooney**

If you like books featuring complex and compelling relationships, this one is for you! This coming of age story of two young people just starting off their adult lives will have you enthralled. It is not a simple romance; the story, which can be dark at times, delves into the complexity of class, domestic violence and intimate relationships between families and partners. The character profiles and lyric narrative transcend the weighty themes and create a fast-paced story that is hard to put down.

##### ***The Muse*, Jessie Burton**

A story set in 1960's London, with flashbacks to Spain during the Spanish Civil War. The back drop of civil unrest, a world on the brink of war and shifting societal values set the stage for a passionate love triangle which creates lifelong consequences for the young protagonist, Olive. Olive's story, and her talent, may never have been discovered if not for a young immigrant, Odelle, looking to make her way in London's art world in the turbulent 1960's. The novel explores the connections between children and parents, all navigating a chaotic time as best they can, and the impact their actions have on future generations. Burton weaves a compelling and rich story of art, artists, love and redemption.

#### PODCASTS

##### ***Mobituaries*, by Mo Rocca**

Obituaries with a twist and not just about people (give a listen to the one about two trees). The people (and characters) he features are interesting as well; and if you can't get enough of the podcast, he's got a book as well. Mo Rocca is a regular guest on the radio show Wait Wait Don't Tell Me (NPR). He's also featured on CBS Sunday Morning, and was on The Daily Show with John Stewart for four years.

##### ***Fatal Voyage: The Mysterious Death of Natalie Wood***

Until listening to this podcast, produced by American Media Inc., I didn't realize there were so many unanswered questions about Natalie Wood's death. Investigative journalist Dylan Howard details Natalie's life, career and relationship with Robert Wagner in 13 fascinating episodes.

##### ***The Moth Radio Hour*, from PRX**

Great storytelling from around the world, told live on stage. Usually there is a theme for each weekly show. The stories are poignant, funny, dramatic, sad, inspiring and create a way to connect with people you've never met.

##### ***Stay Tuned with Preet*, from Café Insider**

Preet Bharara, former US Attorney, hosts a weekly show that covers law, politics, justice and current events. He features interesting guests and offers thoughtful, and thought-provoking, commentary on a wide range of interesting topics. ■



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Cover: Poet Kate Rushin who wrote her poem "Library Card," dedicated to HPL's first librarian Caroline Maria Hewins, into the community banner.



# THE BIG READ



**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY** kicked off the summer with great news—HPL received \$13,800 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the Library’s extensive line-up of events and activities exploring and celebrating LGBTQ art, literature, and performance—all under NEA’s umbrella program The Big Read.

*Author Stephanie Burt*

## HPL's featured book, *Advice from the Lights* inspires month of LGBTQ-themed programs, workshops and author talk

The Big Read is a national celebration of good books, community conversations and discovery and this year's Big Read title for HPL is "Advice from the Lights."

"Advice from the Lights" is a collection of poems by transgender poet, professor and critic of comic books, fan fiction, science fiction and young adult novels, Stephanie Burt. Burt's book, and an accompanying youth book selection, "George" by Alex Gino, will be available at all HPL locations.

"Stephanie Burt is such a powerful writer and her robust advocacy of inclusion and acceptance are needed now more than ever", said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. "It is vital that we deal with these issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, and that's what the Big Read is all about."

Festivities are set to kick off September 7 with "Drag Yourself to the Library", a fun, celebratory showcase featuring a drag ball hosted by the Library and Imperial Sovereign Court and Hartford Pride partners; an LGBTQ photography exhibit; book readings, and live performances. The kick-off will coincide with

Capital City Pride week in Hartford, led by Connecticut Latinas/os Achieving Rights and Opportunities (CLARO).

Programs for adults, teens, children and multiple generations will continue through October 10 at the downtown and branch libraries and elsewhere. They include LGBTQ film screenings, and discussions featuring speakers from the Connecticut Stonewall Foundation and the LGBT Center at Central Connecticut State University. There's also a five-session poetry workshop led by renowned poet Kate Rushin around identity exploration.

Other highlights include the Hartford Capital City Pride Festival on September 14th, a YOUmedia poetry slam, a poetry writing workshop with Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles III, and youth-led community conversation facilitated by True Colors, a Hartford non-profit supporting LGBTQ youth and the host of the largest LGBTQ youth conference in the country.

The celebration will culminate on October 10—the day before National Coming Out Day—with a presentation, discussion, and book signing with Burt.

Other community partners in HPL's Big Read 2019 include departments and groups from the University of Connecticut. The UConn Rainbow Center, UConn Hartford Student Services, UConn Hartford Library, and the Barnes & Noble UConn Hartford Bookstore. All are all planning workshops and book discussions for college students around the themes of "Advice from the Lights".

"It is inspiring to see both large and small communities across the nation come together around a book," said NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "We always look forward to the unique ways cities, towns, and organizations, like Hartford Public Library, explore these stories and encourages community participating in a wide variety of events." ■

# "It is inspiring to see both large and small communities across the nation come together around a book."

*Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles II will lead a poetry writing workshop for HPL's Big Read.*



# Meet Stephanie Burt

## *An interview with HPL 2019 Big Read Author and Featured Speaker*

**Q: What made you decide to become a poet and literary critic?**

A: I knew as a teen there were four things I really wanted to do with my life, professionally. I wanted to be a singer- songwriter, or molecular biologist, or a poetry writer or a science fiction writer. It turned out, I can't sing. You don't want me anywhere near a lab. I'll break the equipment. I have, I think, some gift for writing about narrative but I have only ever been able to create narrative when it's collaborative. So that left poetry. Fortunately I went to a college where I found the right Lit-Crit teacher, Helen Vendlar, who taught at Harvard for many years and just retired this year. She was great.

**Q: Tell us about your connections to Connecticut and Hartford.**

A: My partner is from Norwich and Lisbon and my mother-in-law, my mom and her partner, now live in East Hampton. I've written about Wallace Stephens. He is a major poet. He speaks to me. The longest thing I have done on him is probably a literary criticism piece that talks about his connections to Hartford and Connecticut and the way he tried to imbue his late poems with a sense of place. Elizabeth Park in Hartford, where he used to walk around, turns up repeatedly. I admire his intelligence. I pursue and try to describe his sadness. He is a tremendously sad writer and a tremendously moving one. You would see him trying to imagine places for himself; to get an experience that is capacious enough and just enough fun to make up for the loneliness that is there throughout his poetry. I feel bad for him but he is just a tremendous creative force, a tremendous intellect and I like to see how he puts words together.

**Q: What was your reaction to having "Advice from the Lights" chosen for the Big Read 2019?**

A: I am very flattered. I was delighted. I don't have a lot of experience having my poetry be made available at that level or be made available in a way that encourages middle and high school readers and younger readers to look at it. I want more readers. I want a larger set of people to feel welcome in my work and a

having a Big Read flag is a step toward that – a way of saying, "hey, I don't bite. It's okay if you don't get my references."

**Q: Why are so many of your characters in this book animals, insects and inanimate objects?**

A: One of the things I like about speakers who are bugs and airplanes and staplers and flashlights, is that you can talk about yourself and the people with whom you have something in common. You can talk about your feelings and what it's like to be you in great detail without having to provide your own biography or anyone else's. You also don't have to worry if you're writing about a talking flashlight, whether the flashlight is confined to your own biography and therefore deeply and obviously reflects white privilege or whether you're appropriating the flashlight because you're not actually a flashlight and you should let flashlights speak for themselves.

**Q: What inspired the title of your book of poems, "Advice from the Light"?**

A: The title is an expression of wariness and self-doubt. People expect a book of poetry to offer advice. It's not always satisfied, but young people expect that. And you should be able to trust books of poetry, but who am I to give that advice? I am sort of already somewhat privileged, certainly, and maybe prominent. I am sort of up there in the lights in a way that makes it harder for me to see everyone else. I may be so distant that I'm more like a star than what people would want advice from on earth. I certainly sometimes feel remote from others. So "Advice from the Lights" is something you might want but can't get or something you get and shouldn't follow. The lights in this context could be swamp light from gases, a kind of dancing light that can show up when you're hiking and, of course, that you don't want to follow.

**Q: How did you get into comic book criticism?**

A: Comics are an art form that hadn't seen any academic respect until the past 10 years or so. They are continuous and empowering narratives for people who are not seeing themselves in helpful

**Stephanie (formerly Stephen) Burt is a witty, widely known poet and critic of comic books, fan fiction, science fiction, and young adult novels. Her 2013 TED talk “Why People Need Poetry” has been viewed more than a million times. “Advice from the Lights” is her fourth full-length book of poems and was written during the five-year period “from the beginning to the end of the decisions [she’s] made about coming out as a trans woman”. The book is filled with talking objects and animals grappling with their unique identities: a hermit crab trying to find the right shell, a blue betta fish named Scarlet, and a roly-poly bug that doesn’t like the way it looks.**

**Burt’s Oct. 10 author talk will be her first visit at Hartford Public Library, but she is no stranger to Connecticut. She earned her PhD in English at Yale and has done scholarly writing on Wallace Stephens, the Pulitzer Prize winning poet and longtime Hartford resident. Her visit is one of a series of stops she will make this fall for the Big Read and to promote her newest book: “Don’t Read Poetry: A Book About How to Read Poems”. In this interview with HPL Magazine, Burt talks about writing poetry, coming out and the people and experiences that have shaped her work. She teaches poetry and literary criticism at Harvard and lives near Boston with her partner and two children.**

ways in the real world or in realist narratives. There is a kind of comic that has roots in realism and modernism that is about describing traumatic events realistically – the kind of thing that Allison McDowell does in “Blood Home”. The kinds of comics I’m more involved in right now are the ones that involve large groups of people who can do things others can’t do having a series of adventures that are larger than life and have connected narratives. They have communities around them that we can be part of, that are different from the poetry communities I’m a part of. The particular comic community that I’m most interested in is the community X-Men fans. It’s a community that has historically been extremely welcoming to trans and queer people and people with disabilities.

**Q: What will you be talking about in Hartford?**

A: One of the things I am coming to Hartford to talk about it is all of the things that are part of queer and trans identity that are in my new book of poetry. My sense that I really have whole sets of friends in queer and trans communities, rather than wanting them or wishing I knew how to find them, comes really from the last decade of me gradually figuring out how to be who I am in life and sometimes on the page. I feel like I’ve been writing trans poetry since the 1990’s, but there were very few people who seem to have picked up on the fact that it was actually trans poetry until I transitioned and started talking about it.

**Q: Do you feel like your work has advanced understanding of the LGBTQ community?**

A: It’s hard to know. Honestly, the people who have taken the risks to create opportunities to put it all out there, are not me. I am delighted whenever I hear, and I do hear it more often, something I wrote has really helped someone be themselves or be who they want to be. I do hear that now, so I guess I’m helpful. But I’m also the beneficiary of a lot of work that others have done and is by no means over. ■



Author Stephanie Burt

# Please join us!

# 11.20

## beyond words



**With Featured Speaker:**  
**Reyna Grande**

*Author of A Dream Called Home*

For tickets or sponsorship information,  
please contact Gilda Roncari at  
860.695.6296 or [groncari@hplct.org](mailto:groncari@hplct.org).

Learn more at [hplbeyondwords.com](http://hplbeyondwords.com)

**November 20, 2019**

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

Hartford Marriott Downtown  
200 Columbus Boulevard  
Hartford, CT 06103

### **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.

# LIBRARY STORIES

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## WANDA SELDON



Wanda Seldon with her collage "Looking for America."

*"There is a richness of fellowship here... I have never been disappointed."*

**WANDA N. SELDON** has had a love affair with Hartford Public Library for more than 32 years and the Library has loved her back. Over hot tea in The Kitchen café, she spoke about the public library and all it has to offer. "I love this place, what it does, how it embraces the community."

A frequent visitor to the Downtown Library and HPL's Albany Library, she reminisced about her daughter McKenzie's first job at the Albany Library and how much they, together, enjoyed the robust collection of African American authors on the library shelves.

Wanda's first job was as a page in her hometown library of Shaker Heights, Ohio. There, she recalled summer days on the swing reading and decorating bulletin boards in the children's room. "Libraries have changed so much; today they are something very different to people. They let us make a little noise," she said with a smile.

A frequent participant in the programs and events offered by Hartford Public Library, last year in collaboration with the Library's Hartford History Center, Wanda developed and facilitated the "The Ruby McCollum Story & #MeToo Movement" screening and panel discussion joined by the Rev. Dr. Barbara E. Headley, Kim Newland, and Joelle A. Murchison. The well-attended program provided an opportunity for a lively discussion on the #MeToo movement and the effects sexual harassment has had on Black women and women of color. "This Library lets us pursue topics of interest that go against the grain. I like that."

Wanda is also a frequent participant in what was originally entitled "Arts and Archives"—a series of workshops for adults age 50 and older that combined the humanities with the arts and used Hartford history and "sense of place" to inspire. Today these workshops fall under the umbrella of the Library's popular Creative Aging programming.

"I appreciate the grants you've been getting for the 50+ age group. It's such a wonderful opportunity. I love art and I love music, these workshops give us a chance to explore areas that we hadn't before." She remembered how, in the first year "Arts and Archives"

was offered (back in 2010), she took five of the seven different 6-week workshops—reveling in sculpture, memoir writing, poetry, jazz appreciation and photography.

Hartford Public Library's "Arts and Archives," recognized nationally in Diantha Dow Schull's 50+ Library Services: Innovation in Action, published by the American Library Association (2013) was funded by grants from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and, most recently, the Ensworth Charitable Foundation. This workshop series continues to grow in popularity.

"The workshops all brought something different to my life," Wanda said. "I loved the creative writing; it opened the door for me to deal with some issues. It (the workshop series) was an opportunity for growth, I found it very empowering." In a recent workshop offered at the Albany Library, led by local artist Andres Chaparro, Wanda pieced together a collage reflective of Hartford's rich and varied world. When the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMMA) launched a community-wide call for submissions for its show "Looking for America," Wanda submitted her work and was delighted to have it accepted. From October 15 to Nov. 15, 2018, Wanda's collage was on view at the NBMMA.

A Hartford artist and supporter of the arts, Wanda is a frequent guest at the Library's Artwalk openings and said the downtown gallery space "is a good way to expose the community to our local artists—from Sandy Fromson to Robert Charles Hudson – it's such a cool place. When I'm here, I say to myself, 'Am I in New York or am I in Hartford; it really is a beautiful gallery.'"

Wanda's Library Story would not be complete without mentioning Baby Grand Jazz, a free Sunday jazz series funded by The Kaman Foundation and offered in the Downtown Library January through April. Now in its 16th season, Wanda has seldom missed an afternoon performance. Because of her love of the jazz series, Wanda created and donated to the Library's collection a jazz art quilt. "It really is my gift to the people," said Wanda. "There is a richness of fellowship here. I have never been disappointed." ■





# A SERIES OF SPRING & SUMMER EXHIBITS CELEBRATE FIBER ARTS AND ARTISTS

A celebration of fiber art is bringing a splash of color, texture, and beauty to the walls and display cases of Hartford Public Library this summer. The series of exhibits features the work of Hartford-based artists and artisans whose work stretches traditional notions about quilted and woven objects. The series kicked off with an exhibit in March, “Woven Threads, Woven Lives”. The show is the culmination of a project conceived by weaver and artist Sandy Bender Fromson that produced the 24-foot woven banner on display, each section of which was created by one of the nearly 200 people taking part in the project.

Other exhibits feature a selection of quilts by internationally renowned quilt and fiber artist, Ed-Johnetta Miller; portraits and other images by fiber artist Linda Martin, a student of Miller’s; and “amped-up” interpretations of everyday woven objects by 36 artisans from Hartford Artisan Weavers, a non-profit workshop in Hartford for weavers with low vision, no vision, or over 55.

The vibrant selection of work included workshops and talks by the artists. Each exhibit is as unique as the individual artists and artisans.

## “WOVEN THREADS, WOVEN LIVES”

In March, patrons, supporters and staff gathered in a third floor atrium of the library to celebrate the unveiling of a colorful 24-foot woven banner, two-years in the making. 188 tags dangling from the banner fluttered as the sheet covering it was lifted. Each tag had a wish for Hartford on it, hand-written by each of the weavers who took part in the creation of the banner at a series of community events in Hartford.

“What a lovely idea, honestly, to have this be part of the community forever,” Hartford Public Library CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey told the assembled crowd. “Today is a culmination of two years of effort and a celebration of love, passion, vision, art, and creativity.”

Sandy Bender Fromson, a former UConn professor turned artist, community activist, and one of the library’s most stalwart supporters, conceived the idea for the “Woven Threads, Woven Lives” project. Charmaine Craig, a fellow activist and close friend, worked closely with her to execute it.

The idea grew out of a joint ArtWalk exhibit in 2016 featuring work by Fromson and artist Ellen Shiffman. Fromson brought her loom to the opening and invited those attending to weave a short section.

The reaction of one weaver – an immigrant woman for whom the loom conjured memories of childhood and her homeland – inspired the idea for the project. Fromson brought her loom to HPL’s Albany Library and Real Art Ways, an alternative multidisciplinary Hartford arts organization, then back to the main library for a full week.

At each site, Craig invited passers-by to the sit at the loom, helping them pick out lengths of three different types of donated yarn to weave into the banner. Weaving the strands together into one long piece had a unifying effect on participants, she said.

“When we sit and create this project, there is no class, or gender or color,” she said.

“We are much more similar than we are different, but the differences are interesting and create energy,” Real Art

Ways Director, Will K. Wilkins, added the day of the opening. “This is a physical manifestation of that variety and beauty.”

About half of the 188 weavers taking part in the project are from Hartford while the rest are from surrounding communities. Wilkins walked the length of the banner in search of the sparkly thread he wove into his section. Poet Kate Rushin proudly pointed to another section where the words of her poem, *The Library Card*, were plainly visible. Fromson transferred the poem onto a piece of red silk that was then spun into thin strip of fiber and woven into the banner.

Other weavers included Quinn-Carey, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, and Nancy Otter, an English teacher at Hartford Public High School who called weaving, “a wonderful metaphor for life and human community”.

“It’s really to show we are all quite different and at the same time quite beautiful,” noted Fromson, who attended the unveiling with her husband, Howard Fromson. “We don’t all have to be homogenous.”

## 2018 Caroline M. Hewins Medalists



HPL Board President Gregory C. Davis with HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey and Sandy and Howard Fromson.

Sandy and Howard Fromson have spent their lives learning and creating. Innovation drove both of their highly successful professional careers, and it has also fueled their later years. While most couples see retirement as a quiet epilogue, the Fromsons have made it into an exciting new chapter of art, philanthropy and service to others.

*“My mother would have treasured Caroline Hewins whose love of books equaled her own. Caroline was a revolutionary and humanistic librarian. She advocated the basic right of equal access to information and opportunity.”*

—Sandy Fromson:

*“I think the library is the most important cultural institution this city has,” Howard said. “It’s certainly populated by more people and more different kinds of people than the rest... It’s wonderful to see all the people congregating on the front porch every morning, waiting for the library to open.”*

—Howard Fromson:



Charmaine Craig assists Jaelah Craig at the loom. The community weaving project took place here at the Albany Library, as well as at the Downtown Library and at Real Art Ways.

## “AMONG FRIENDS” ED JOHNETTA MILLER

*ArtWalk, July 19–September 28, 2019 | Artist Reception, Friday, September 20, 5:30 p.m.*

Ed Johnetta Miller is a fiber artist, quilter, teacher, curator and lecturer considered one of the most creative and colorful improvisational quilt-makers in the United States. The work in this exhibit was inspired by her close, cherished ties to the Hartford community.

“So many people have inspired me and come into my life through quilting,” she says. “I have done so many quilts for the Greater Hartford community. I thought it fitting to honor those people with me being honored with an exhibit at the library’s ArtWalk.

Selected works include, “For the Men in My Life”, a quilt created with neck ties Miller collected from a host of male friends and acquaintances in Hartford, including Mayor Mike Peters, Trinity College Professor Jerry Watts, among others. Another quilt, “Dedicated to Jackie,” pays tribute to her friend and former neighbor, jazz saxophonist Jackie McLean. Yet another, “Right of Passage”, honors the dedication and discipline of the women organizing and performing in Yaboo, an annual dance event at the Artist Collective in Hartford.



Artist Ed Johnetta Miller

Widely exhibited in the United States and abroad, Miller's work can be found in museums, corporate and private collections in the U.S. that include the Smithsonian Museum of American Art; the Rocky Mountain quilt Museum in Golden, Colorado; and, locally, in the Wadsworth Athenaeum. She is the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award, the most prestigious arts award given by the state of Connecticut; the President's Award of the Wadsworth Athenaeum; and the Polaris Award of the Leadership Greater Hartford.

The exhibit features an Artist Talk and Workshop, on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Using fabric and beads she has collected from around the world, Miller will demonstrate quilting techniques and show participants how to make frameable note cards, a quilt out of paper, and an 8 x 10 inch section of a cloth quilt they can frame as is or continue working on at home.

## “SHARING STORIES” LINDA MARTIN

*Hartford History Center, June—September 20, 2019 | Artist Reception, Saturday, August 17, 2–4 p.m.*

Linda Martin layers small pieces of fabric to create the subtle shading and contours that give her images a lifelike, multi-dimensional feel. Her improvisational style is primitive and joyful yet sophisticated in its pointillistic precision. More like collages than quilts, her images are inspired by history, her experiences and daily life, she says.

Each piece has a didactic quality, an outgrowth of her background as an educator and her irrepressible urge to teach. Quilts depicting insects and animals, for example, draw on her work with young children. Her portrait of Dr. Pearl Primus is both a tribute to a woman credited with bringing authentic African-American dance to the American stage and an introduction to her and her place in history. Another piece, Iry-Pat, was



Linda Martin's "Lift Up the Gift" is currently on display in the Hartford History Center.

inspired by Martin's travels in Egypt. Martin's clever use of symbolism, provide subtle reminders of Egypt's connection to Africa. Her work is a metaphor for her life. "I am always trying to point out my truth to other people," Martin notes. "As we take small pieces of our lives daily, our being is created."

## “NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S WEAVING” HARTFORD ARTISAN WEAVERS

*Third Floor cases, August 4–September 28, 2019*

This exhibit takes the tried and true structure of traditional weaving patterns and amps them up in new and unexpected ways through the use of color, texture and other elements, says Katie Glass, Executive Director of Hartford Artisan Weavers, a non-profit community dedicated to

enriching lives through hand-weaving. The scarves, towels, shawls, wall hangings, and other items on display are the creations of 36 artisans, all of whom have low vision, no vision or are over 55 years of age.

The design of each item varies with the skill level of each artisan. Some are new to weaving while others have been weaving for years. Center Creative Director Fran Curran and a team of volunteers, worked with each artisan to discover how they wanted to stretch their skills, says Glass. Designs incorporate a mix of non-traditional fibers including silk, the plant fiber Tencel, and chenille, she says. The mission of the center is to provide social opportunity, a source of income, motor and cognitive skill enhancement, and a sense of accomplishment for blind, visually impaired and senior artisans.

"Our idea is to meet artists at their level," says Glass. "We want to make sure our artisans feel successful." ■



## CAMP FIELD MAKE MUSIC DAY

Friday, June 21, was Make Music Hartford Day. Dozens of musical performances and activities were held throughout the city, coordinated by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. At the Camp Field Library in Hartford's South End, three guitar teachers provided free lessons to adults and youngsters from the neighborhood. Jeremy Galloway is shown above giving some pointers to Prachurjyo Rebeiro.

## THE "POP UP" LIBRARY

In its continuing effort to bring learning and knowledge to as many people as possible, Hartford Public Library (HPL) installed special Pop Up Libraries at three high traffic Hartford locations: Union Station, 1 Union Place; Burgdorf Health Center, 131 Coventry Street; and The Kitchen Café, located inside the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street.

The new Pop Up Libraries went operational on Wednesday, May 1, and are the first of their kind in Connecticut. Utilizing advanced WiFi technology powered by Axis 360, the new Pop Up Libraries are small network devices which will allow anyone to access HPL's digital content catalog through a

phone or tablet. No library card is needed, no app has to be installed, and no password is required.

Books open instantly and can be read on a phone or tablet browser or downloaded to be read offline for as long as the item is checked out. "Hartford Public Library has a long tradition of reaching beyond its walls to bring knowledge and learning to people wherever they are. The new Pop Up Libraries will re-introduce the pleasures of reading to many people who have forgotten how enjoyable and relaxing it can be to just sit back and lose yourself in a book," said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey.

# SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM KICK OFF

A day of sun, discovery  
and fun gets the program  
off to a strong start.





**HPL'S SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM** got off to a roaring start on June 15, with a kick-off celebration set inside and outside of the Downtown Library. The festivities drew an estimated 400 people and nicely captured the spirit of this year's program theme: "Read. Go. Do". From dancing on the library terrace to the sounds of Boogie Chillun' to high-energy activities that included kickboxing, zumba and yoga, there was plenty for everybody to "do". Arch Street was closed to traffic to make room for all the action, which also included face painting, airbrush tattoos, art and sensory activities with teen interns, and, of course, signing up for library cards.

Another big draw this year was soccer classes taught by members of the new Hartford Athletics soccer team. The activity served as a teaser for the Summer Learning program's big incentive prize—a chance to win a free ticket to a Hartford Athletics game at the new Dillon Stadium on Saturday, August 24. To be eligible, youth must complete at least five #readgodo activities by the end of the program or join one of six Summer Learning clubs—Health; Hartford; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math); Art; Nature; and Reading – and complete five activities. Every child completing activities will receive a button designed by a local artist.

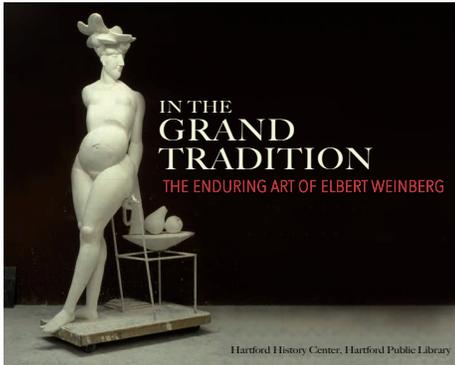
This year's program and kick-off festivities were made possible with funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund, and the Evelyn Preston Memorial Fund. Summer Learning activities will be happening throughout the summer at all Hartford Public Library locations. ■



# HPL

# News Notes

It's been a rewarding year at Hartford Public Library; one filled with accomplishments, accolades, and other good news. Our staff and programs are being recognized for excellence, innovation, and their work in the community. We are proud that our contributions are being noticed and appreciate the support of our corporate partners, benefactors, and professional colleagues.



## HARTFORD HISTORY CENTER RECOGNIZED TWICE BY CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

Congratulations to the Hartford History Center for receiving TWO Awards of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. The first award is for our book, *In the Grand Tradition: The Enduring Art of Elbert Weinberg*. The second award is for our Hartford Hip Hop Digital Stories project in partnership with Trinity College.

The committee called the Weinberg book “an important reintroduction of Weinberg, a Hartford sculptor” and noted its focus on the Weinberg Collection materials held in the Hartford History Center. Of the digital story project, a CLHO board member said, “these are the kinds of program we need more of...”

## ELIZABETH DAVIS NAMED CLA SUPPORT STAFF PERSON OF THE YEAR

The Connecticut Library Association (CLA) named long-time staff member, Elizabeth Davis, Support Staff Person of the Year, at its annual conference in April. Elizabeth is a Hartford resident and has been a staff member at Hartford Public Library for 35 years. The honor follows Elizabeth’s receiving the library’s annual Customer Service Award in December 2018.

In nominating Elizabeth for the CLA award, HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey summed up her contribution this way: “When I first came to Hartford Public Library, it didn’t take long to realize that we are very lucky to have someone like Elizabeth. Her 35 years of working directly with customers on a daily basis is a rare and valuable commodity, and she is always willing to share her vast institutional knowledge with other staff members, including myself.”



Elizabeth Davis

## IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE CITED FOR INNOVATION

The Urban Libraries Council named Hartford Public Library among its Top Ten Innovators at its annual forum in Baltimore in September. Judges cited HPL’s Immigrant Career Pathways Initiative for demonstrating the value of libraries to the community. The program was chosen from a pool of 220 submissions evaluated in 10 categories. Winners were recognized for innovative programs, services, and operating practices. “Today’s public libraries are bold and pioneering community leaders that play many roles, from educational institutions to technology centers and entrepreneurial hubs”, said Urban Libraries Council President and CEO Susan Benton. “I congratulate Hartford Public Library for illustrating a persistent commitment to realizing a groundbreaking initiative that has transformed their community.”



*Career Pathways ServSafe student Theresa Saunders does her on-the-job internship at Hands On Hartford, this spring.*



Hartford Hip Hop pioneers (from left to right): Juanita Chislom aka Empress Nijuabi, Myron Moye, Rick Torres, Tony Villarini, Hjalmar Garcia; Trinity College students (from left to right): Enrique Loya, Kaytlin Ernske, Isabel Exstein, Giana Moren, Jervon Adams Jr., Karen Navarrete, Yisbell Marrero, Cody Maldonado, and Giselle Galan; Trinity professor Seth Markle, former Peace Train Breaking and Popping All-Stars manager Tim Wolf, and Hartford History Center team member Jasmin Agosto for screening of Hartford Hip Hop Digital Stories on February 13, 2018, Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library. Photo by Jen Fiereck (trincoll)

### HPL, CITY, AND THREE INSURANCE COMPANIES RECEIVE PARTNERSHIP AWARD FROM HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL

Hartford Business Journal has recognized Hartford Public Library, the City of Hartford, and three Hartford-based insurance companies, Aetna, Travelers and The Hartford, with a Partnership Award. The honor was one of seven presented by HBJ last November. The publication recognized both businesses and individuals for supporting non-profit organizations as well as non-profits that have made a significant impact on the communities they serve.

“Nonprofits play a vital role in strengthening our communities,” said HBJ Publisher, Chris Santilli. “We are pleased to recognize these outstanding nonprofits in our community, as well as the businesses and individuals who are helping them to maximize their impact.”

### OPIOID OVERDOSE RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE RECEIVES \$10,000 CIGNA FOUNDATION GRANT

A \$10,000 grant from the Cigna Foundation is helping Hartford Public Library implement an opioid overdose rapid-response initiative introduced in Nov. 2018. The money will help pay for the training and supplies needed to assist victims of opioid drug overdoses. Like many libraries, HPL is on the front lines of the increasingly widespread and deadly abuse of opioid drugs.

“As a public institution, we see that our entire community is impacted by the opioid crisis and it was clear that a rapid and robust response to the problems caused by the opioid drug crisis was imperative,” said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. “While Hartford police,

fire and ambulance personnel have been wonderful in assisting in such situations, library staff also want to be ready in instances when emergency services cannot arrive in time. By training staff members who volunteer for training, and having the necessary supplies on-site, we are doing all we can to prepare for situations when a delay of just a few minutes or seconds can mean the difference between life and death.”

Along with staff training, HPL will be working with Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition to provide public education sessions and information forums. HPL is planning to offer opioid abuse awareness materials at all library locations and on the HPL website.

### MARIE JARRY, HPL'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES, NAMED TO MAYOR'S CABINET FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Marie Jarry, HPL's Director of Public Services, was recently named to the Mayor's Cabinet for Young Children. The Cabinet advises the Mayor in setting policy on all matters affecting children and their families. The cabinet is charged with: recommending and overseeing city policy on early childhood; establishing short- and long-term goals and targets; advancing the City's Early Childhood Plan or Blueprint; and assuming and extending beyond the functions of the state-mandated School Readiness Council in order to embrace a birth to age nine continuum inclusive of all providers (Center-based, Home-based, and Friends, Families & Neighbors), regardless of funding source.

### NANCY CADDIGAN RECEIVES HPL'S 1ST ANNUAL SALMA KHATOON FARID AWARD

Nancy Caddigan was awarded the 1st Annual Salma Khatoon Farid Award at the 22nd Annual Connecticut Immigrant Day at the State Capitol on Wednesday,

April 17. The award is given to “a remarkable educator who has dedicated years to teaching immigrant children and youth.” The award was presented by Asma and Tariq Farid and State Senator Saud Anwar. ■



**Top:** Nancy Caddigan, with Asma and Tariq Farid and State Senator Saud Anwar (far right)  
**Bottom:** Marie Jarry, HPL Director of Public Services



# Fashion

from a





# Local Perspective

DaShaun Hightower, a mentor for Hartford Public Library's YOUmedia, is a talented designer and stylist with extensive fashion show experience. DaShaun used that talent and experience to create the 1st Annual YOUmedia Fashion Show last May.

The fashion show was a collaboration that linked fifteen aspiring local teen models with three Connecticut-based fashion designers. The featured designers with DaShaun were Bertha Angelo and Tyler Lambert. The models who participated in the YOUmedia Fashion Show on May 30 were:

Anthony Leon	Destiny Pizarro
Shonice Perrin	Kiera Flynn
Yoshika Tsuruki	Alyja Roman
Deshanayia Liberte	Madyson Frame
Tiana Brownell	Chad Walker
Havana Ortiz	Yarimar Molina
Ali Ashby	Jason Hipolyte ■
Kayla Sinclair	



# Leadership

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Brenda Miller, *Executive Director, Culture and Communications*  
Homa Naficy, *Executive Director, The American Place*  
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**BUILDING STRONGER  
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER.**



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

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# Locations and Hours

**DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**  
500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103  
860-695-6300  
Mon-Thurs: 9:30am to 8pm  
Fri & Sat: 9:30am to 5pm  
(Sundays: 1-5 pm, November through April only)

**ALBANY LIBRARY**  
1250 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112  
860-695-7380  
Mon & Wed: 10am to 6pm  
Tues & Thurs: 10am to 8pm  
Fri: 10am to 5pm; Sat: 10am to 5pm

**BARBOUR LIBRARY**  
261 Barbour Street, Hartford, CT 06120  
860-695-7400  
Mon & Wed: 10am to 8pm  
Tues & Thurs: 10am to 6pm;  
Fri: 10am to 5pm

**CAMP FIELD LIBRARY**  
30 Campfield Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06114  
860-695-7440  
Mon & Wed: 10am to 6pm  
Tues & Thurs: 10am to 8pm  
Fri: 10am to 5pm

**DWIGHT LIBRARY**  
7 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
860-695-7460  
Mon & Wed: 10am to 6pm  
Tues & Thurs: 10am to 8pm  
Fri: 10am to 5pm

**PARK LIBRARY**  
744 Park Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
860-695-7500  
Mon & Wed: 10am to 8pm  
Tues & Thurs: 10am to 6pm  
Fri: 10am to 5pm; Sat: 10am to 5pm

**SAND/ROPKINS LIBRARY**  
1750 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120  
860-695-7520  
Mon, Wed & Thurs: 3 to 6pm  
Tues: 1:30pm - 6 pm; Fri: 3 to 5pm  
Summer Hours:  
Mon-Thurs: 12:30-6:00 pm  
Friday: 12:30-5 pm

**BOUNDLESS LIBRARY AT RAWSON SCHOOL**  
260 Holcomb Street, Hartford, CT 06112  
860-695-7481  
Tues & Thurs: 3-6 pm