



# The Confluence

Newsletter of the Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter

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Volume 80, Issue 2

Summer/Fall 2015

## President's Message – Leslie Eibl

Thank you for taking the time to read this Summer/Fall's issue of the Confluence. To sum up the 2015 SLA Pittsburgh Chapter Summer: it has been busy! Carrie Wardzinski has been doing a phenomenal job planning events including an evening with Courtney Young, 2014-2015 ALA President, a chapter get-together at this year's annual conference in Boston, and a program at the Heinz History Center. Our chapter also met for a happy hour get-together in August. All of these events have been well attended and I'm looking forward to our future programs that will close out the year and hope to see everyone at our annual meeting and awards program in November.

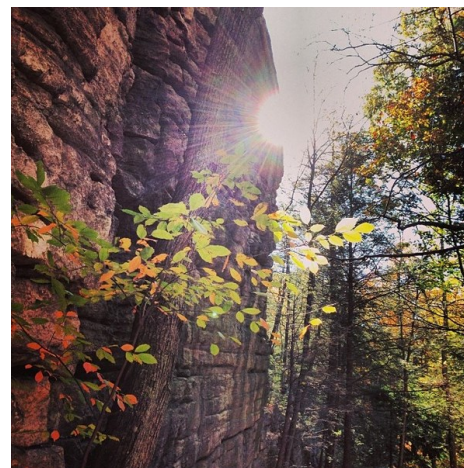


Photo credit: Brooke Hyatt

This summer has also seen many changes on the national level. In May, a recommendations report was sent from the hired change consultants highlighting seven different areas in moving SLA forward in the future. Carrie Wardzinski wrote a wonderful statement to ensure our chapter was heard and voiced concerns with the proposed centralization of chapter funds and changes in the Chapter Cabinet Chair recommendations. With feedback from chapters and divisions, including our own, the SLA Board voted to receive the [Board-Revised Recommendations](#) and accepted the strategic framework outlined in the [Road Map for the Future of SLA](#). In July, our chapter board held a special meeting to recap our understanding of these documents and we plan to keep everyone up to date as the strategic framework progresses.

As a result of the July board meeting, our Awards Committee have begun their preparations for hosting annual meeting a little earlier this year than in past years. This year's annual meeting will take place on Thursday, November 12.

*Continues on page 10*

The [SLA membership directory](#) is available online. You will need to log in and select [Pittsburgh chapter](#) as the unit.



SLA Social Media

[facebook.com/slahq](https://facebook.com/slahq)  
[twitter.com/slahq](https://twitter.com/slahq)



## My Trip to the SLA Conference — Carrie Wardzinski

Thanks to the Promising Professional award and my employer, I had the opportunity to attend the SLA Annual conference this year. It was held in Boston June 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>, using the abbreviated schedule that SLA adopted a few years ago. The theme of this year's conference was "Be Revolutionary."



I arrived in town late on Friday evening. I planned to attend the Chemistry Information and Resources continuing education class sponsored by the Chemistry Division on Saturday morning and wanted to ensure that I would be there awake and alert. It was a four hour class about various free and subscription-based resources to answer chemistry-related reference questions. It was incredibly helpful for a few reasons. First, it is nice to have a ready-made list of sources to consult, especially for those that may only be used once or twice a year. Secondly, it was interactive and we got the chance to discuss search strategy within small groups. Finally, the two librarians who taught the course – Dawn French and Judy Currano – are

wonderfully knowledgeable. They made the four hours fly by quickly.

Despite the fact that the conference did not officially start until Sunday, many of the conference activities were underway on Saturday. There were the usual board meetings, the division and caucus meet-ups and dinners, and the social activities. I opted to spend my evening walking along the Freedom Trail with about 30 other librarians in town for the conference. If you are not familiar with the Freedom Trail, it is a walking tour that goes throughout the older part of Boston and highlights some of the historic buildings and areas that were important to the American Revolution. Faneuil Hall, the Old South Meeting House, and the Old North Church are just a few of the places we saw along the trail.

The actual conference began Sunday morning. Nearly everyone who reads this has been to some sort conference and knows how they go. Some sessions are great; others flop. I would much rather highlight what was the most helpful for me as a young professional. Hands down, being able to talk and network with other information professionals was the most valuable part of conference attendance for me. As someone early in her career, it was good to connect with others who are in similar positions. For example, I had the opportunity to chat for a few moments with the librarian at Sherwin-Williams, which is one of PPG's biggest competitors. We certainly did not talk "shop," but we did talk about the struggles of being an early-career librarian, we traded contact information, and we offered support and help to each other. As a working parent, it was great to talk to those "been there, done that" parents who understood the struggle of rushing home from work to pick up children from daycare and then get dinner on the table. It is reassuring to hear that others have survived that hectic pace, to hear that it is okay to use daycare, and to have a messy house.

*"Hands down, being able to talk with and network with other information professionals was the most valuable part of conference attendance for me. As someone early in her career, it was good to connect with others who are in similar positions."*

*Continues on page 4*

## Celebrating 80+ years of the Chapter Bulletin – Donna Beck

This summer, I visited our Chapter archives housed in file cabinet drawers at the Mellon Institute Library at Carnegie Mellon University. I looked at some past issues of our Chapter's newsletters. Alas, I found myself having a difficult time deciding how to summarize all the years of Chapter history. Until older issues are available electronically, you can at least view 1998 to present via the Chapter's website.

The first BULLETIN OF THE PITTSBURGH SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION that I found was dated NOVEMBER 1933. The front page of the issue described the October 1933 meeting with a presentation by then Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh, George K. McCabe: "The Bright Side of Depression." The article states, "He pointed out several useful things...the uselessness of excess saving efforts for the average man, unless for the purpose of spending it later on education and self-betterment..."

While browsing thru *Bulletins* from the 1930's thru the 1980's, I was fascinated by a number of stories. One article from 1957, "LIBRARIANS PROVE FARMING ALSO WOMEN'S WORK," told about 2 former Knoxville, TN librarians who quit librarianship, took "correspondence courses in farming at Penn State," and bought a small farm in Tennessee. Hmm, anyone want to partner with me for a career transition?

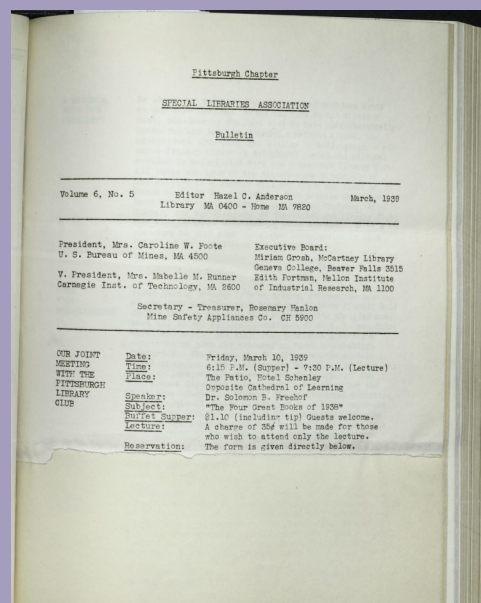
The *Bulletin* advertisements spoke to days gone by as well. For instance, "THE PITTSBURGH NEWS COMPANY" described themselves as a "Complete Service on Books of all publishers to Libraries and Schools at Library Discounts."

Just like recent times, readers enjoyed biographical sketches of members. I now feel like I have a special kinship to a couple librarians that came before us. Daniel R. Pfoutz was the feature for "A Pittsburgh Profile" in the March 1958 Bulletin. Chapter President Virginia Sternberg described "A personal introduction to a genial librarian, and an expert on bird lore and the outdoors...head of Carnegie Library's Technology Dept." The cool part of the story tells of Dan's friend, Allen Saunders, the late comic strip writer. Allen thought of Dan as "one of the best research librarians in the business" and the Steve Roper comic showed "D Pfoutz" on the plate of the librarian's desk.

While browsing thru more issues from the 1950's I was drawn to a poem about Violets by Ella Chalfant. I wanted to find out more about her so I flipped through back issues and found the January 1936 *Bulletin* that announced a new member, Miss Ella I. Chalfant, Librarian at the Peoples Pittsburgh Trust Company.

*Continues on page 4*

## Chapter Bulletin History Photos By Donna Beck



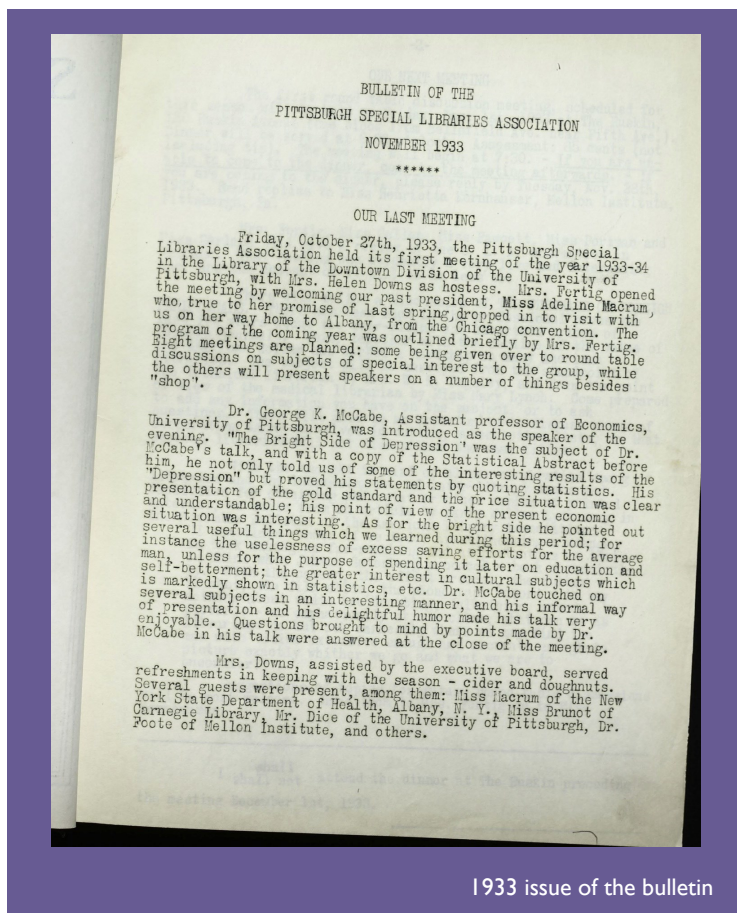
March 1939 meeting at The Patio, Hotel Schenley.  
Supper=\$1.10 including tip.  
Topic="The Four Great Books of 1938."



Miss Ella I. Chalfant, Librarian at the Peoples Pittsburgh Trust Company



## Celebrating 80+ years of the Chapter Bulletin Continued – Donna Beck



1933 issue of the bulletin

She quickly became a Contributing Editor to *The Bulletin*. Apparently she was quite the writer. I found her photo (she looks like she could be related to me!) in the September 1955 issue announcing the publication of her book, *A Goodly Heritage: Earliest Wills on an American Frontier*. It is available electronically via the University of Pittsburgh's Historic Pittsburgh: <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/t/text/text-idx?idno=00afh9870m;view=toc;c=pitttext>

*The Bulletin* changed to *The Pointer* in 1998. I

quote from the Oct/Nov 1988 issue:  
 "FOLLOW THE POINTER! And the winner is...a lucky SLA student member! Fifteen different names were submitted in the contest to name the chapter bulletin. Suggestions included PANORAMA, TRIANGLE TALES, TRIANGLE NEWS, THREE RIVERS REFLECTIONS, and THE POINT, among others. Final choice of the bulletin committee was THE POINTER. You might say it 'led the way.' The originator of the name, who wishes to remain anonymous to protect him or herself from heckling, has requested that the \$25 gift certificate from the Squirrel Hill Bookstore be awarded to an SLA student member. Look for the lucky student member's name in the next issues of THE POINTER."

*The Pointer* changed to *The Confluence* in 2001. Editor Earl Mounts wrote in the Fall 2001 issue:

"Welcome to the first all-electronic issue of the latest incarnation of our newsletter. The competition to name it was fierce as Denise Callihan edged out Nancy Carlson by a matter of hours by being quicker on the draw (i.e., return key). Congratulations to both of them for providing us with "The Confluence", a name that emphasizes the melding of the great variety of talents and expertise that all of our members share in creating the best Chapter in the Association."

I know that editors of *The Confluence* have and continue to do a great job of sharing Chapter News. Now, I appreciate the historic value that our newsletter takes on as time goes on.

### *My Trip to the SLA Conference— Carrie Wardzinski (continued from page 2)*

And as president-elect of this chapter, it was beneficial to connect with other chapter leaders who are also dealing with some of the same issues that our chapter seems to be dealing with – declining membership, shrinking allotment, and navigating the changes coming within SLA itself. I wish that SLA Annual conference offered more time for networking because, for me, the value of this organization is in the connections I make.

Many thanks to the chapter and to PPG for financially supporting me so I could attend this year and make these important connections.

## An Evening with Courtney Young — Leslie Eibl



Photo credits: Brooke Hyatt

On May 28, our chapter celebrated an evening with the 2014-2015 ALA President, Courtney Young. The evening started with a dinner at *The Porch* followed by a presentation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor collaboration space at the University of Pittsburgh's iSchool.

Courtney's presentation focused on the state of libraries, 3 strategic directions for ALA, and how they align with ALA's mission and vision. Her thought-provoking presentation related to our work as SLA Pittsburgh chapter members by highlighting our role as community focused, library advocates. In all, chapter and student members enjoyed a lovely evening listening to and learning from Courtney's experiences and sharing laughs with a local leader.

Many thanks to Courtney Young for providing our chapter with such valuable insights, her time in presenting and answering questions and words of encouragement for the SLA Pittsburgh Chapter!



## Chapter Member News

**Brooke Hyatt** was recently hired as a librarian at Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation, Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory. The laboratory is solely dedicated to the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, which is a joint Navy-Department of Energy program responsible for the research, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of U.S. nuclear-powered warships. Prior to Bechtel, Brooke served as a library specialist for the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.

**Eve Wider** is now serving as the Interim Director, Owen Library (Pitt-Johnstown). Eve most recently served as the Head of the Katz Graduate School of Business Library, a position she's held since 2007.

## Nominations for the 2015 Chapter Awards are Open – Chris Heil

The Summer/Fall 2013 issue of this newsletter ran a detailed article by Deb Martin about each of the Pittsburgh Chapter Awards with some questions to help you think of colleagues who would deserve the awards. As we open the nominations for the 2015 awards, I suggest you read that article again. It's on page 6 of the newsletter at [http://pittsburgh.sla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/confluence\\_v78n2\\_13.pdf](http://pittsburgh.sla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/confluence_v78n2_13.pdf)

Award nominations opened September 1 and will close Friday, October 16. That's sooner than in the past, because our annual business meeting and awards presentation will be held on November 12, 2015.



You may complete the award nomination form found on the Chapter Awards webpage, or, to simplify the process, you may send the same info to the Awards Committee Chair in an email. Include:

- 1) the nominee's name,
- 2) the award name (see list below),
- 3) in 100 words or less describe the activities, programs and leadership qualities that this individual or team has contributed to further the goals of the Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA, and
- 4) include accomplishments and any additional information that you consider noteworthy to the specified award.

Please submit the required information for award nominations by the October 16, 2015 deadline to: Chris Heil, Awards Committee Chair, [chrisheil51@gmail.com](mailto:chrisheil51@gmail.com)

We look forward to reviewing your nominations.

The Awards Committee: Deb Martin, Brooke Hyatt, Margarete Bower, Eve Wider, & Chris Heil

### The Awards Committee seeks nominations for these Chapter Awards:

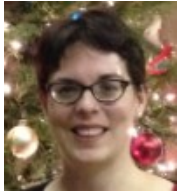
- **Leadership: Merit / Service (\$150)** – recognizes a Chapter member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the Chapter over the past year.
- **Lifetime Achievement (\$100)** –honors a professional librarian for outstanding achievement and accomplishments reflecting the goals of the library profession. The honoree will have shown extended and sustained periods of distinguished commitment to the Pittsburgh Chapter and SLA.
- **Catalyst Award (\$50)** –recognizes a member who has provided innovative solutions to issues that significantly affect the mission and values of the Chapter.
- **Innovations in Technology Award (\$50)** – given to a member who has developed methods or tools to streamline and simplify information tasks through the use of advanced technology so as to achieve actionable results.
- **Mentoring (\$50)** –presented to a Chapter member in recognition of exceptional contributions in the area of mentoring students and/or practicing professionals in the field.
- **Publications / Authorship (\$50)** –presented to a Chapter member who has made a significant contribution to the published literature or created an important electronic document or tool.
- **Promising Professional Award** – Carrie Wardzinski received this award for 2015. Nominations for the 2016 award will open in January.



## Chapter Awards Trivia Revisited – Chris Heil

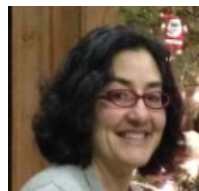
The Summer/Fall 2013 CONFLUENCE also ran a Trivia Quiz about our Pittsburgh Chapter Award winners. The Awards Committee decided to change the Trivia Quiz to a Multiple Choice format. See if you can match the Awards with the names AND photos of recent award winners. We won't provide the answers in this issue. Join us at the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation November to see if you guessed correctly! Award winners, please excuse the photo quality – we had to dig deep for some of these!

**HINT: Most awards have multiple winners and some members have won multiple awards.**



P1 Name:

Award(s):



P2 Name:

Award(s):



P3 Name:

Award(s):



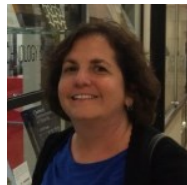
P4 Name:

Award(s):



P5 Name:

Award(s):



P6 Name:

Award(s):



P7 Name:

Award(s):



P8 Name:

Award(s):



P9 Name:

Award(s):



P10 Name:

Award(s):



P11 Name:

Award(s):



P12 Name:

Award(s):

### Member Name:

Donna Beck  
Lynn Berard  
Margarete Bower  
Denise Callihan  
Rachel Callison  
Nancy Flury Carlson  
Leslie Eibl  
Ellie Gehman  
Haley Hodum  
Kate Joranson  
Karen Liljequist

Deb Martin  
Esther Nathanson  
Amy (Yonick) Raimondi  
Ange Pollis  
Casey Sirochman  
Brian Steinmetz  
Robert (Bob) Sullivan  
Mark Vrabel  
Carrie Wardzinski  
Amy Watson  
Eve Wider

### Chapter Awards:

1. Catalyst Award
2. Innovation in Technology Award
3. Leadership Award
4. Lifetime Achievement
5. Mentoring Award
6. Publication/Authorship Award
7. Promising Professional Award
8. Golden Retread Award

## Chapter Awards Trivia Continued – Chris Heil



P13 Name:

Award(s):



P14 Name:

Award(s):



P15 Name:

Award(s):



P16 Name:

Award(s):



P17 Name:

Award(s):



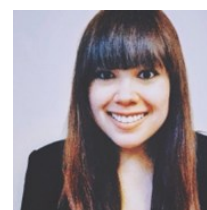
P18 Name: Deb Martin

Award(s):



P19 Name:

Award(s):



P20 Name:

Award(s):



P21 Name:

Award(s):



P22 Name:

Award(s):

Instructions: Match the Awards with the names AND photos of recent award winners. We won't provide the answers in this issue. Join us at the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation in November to see if you guessed correctly! Award winners, please excuse the photo quality – we had to dig deep for some of these!

**HINT: Most awards have multiple winners and some members have won multiple awards.**



### Chapter Awards:

1. Catalyst Award
2. Innovation in Technology Award
3. Leadership Award
4. Lifetime Achievement
5. Mentoring Award
6. Publication/Authorship Award
7. Promising Professional Award
8. Golden Retread Award

### Member Name:

Donna Beck  
Lynn Berard  
Margarete Bower  
Denise Callihan  
Rachel Callison  
Nancy Flury Carlson  
Leslie Eibl  
Ellie Gehman  
Haley Hodum  
Kate Joranson  
Karen Liljequist

Deb Martin  
Esther Nathanson  
Amy (Yonick) Raimondi  
Ange Pollis  
Casey Sirochman  
Brian Steinmetz  
Robert (Bob) Sullivan  
Mark Vrabel  
Carrie Wardzinski  
Amy Watson  
Eve Wider



## Heinz History Center Program and Tour — Amy Watson

In July, chapter members and guests learned about the [Detre Library and Archives](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/) at the Heinz History Center (<http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/>). Matt Strauss and Sierra Green were our gracious hosts for the evening.

The History Center's origins can be traced back to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, a group originally limited to male longtime residents (50 years or more) of the region. One of the group's main focuses was preserving articles of historical significance, starting with the French & Indian War. Their collection efforts soon expanded into the local ethnic communities, with calls for materials on local radio shows. Years later, in the 80's the changes in our steel heavy region emphasized a need to preserve our industrial legacy as well.



Photo credits: Amy Watson



The Center as a whole opened in its current location in 1996, with expansions following to increase collection and exhibit space. The Library and Archives, as a subset of the larger History Center, have a wide variety of material types – including images, sound recordings, journals, newspapers, and other published and unpublished materials. Acquisitions are a large percentage of their time, with between 200 and 300 new collections each year. Collections may be personal donations, such as the Denny-O'Hara Family collections, or business donations, such as the Heinz Company. Other contributing groups include fraternal organizations, religious groups, and schools. All material contributions are vetted by the archivists and curators, and then organized for findability and preservation. The Library is open to the public, but their patron base is wide and varied – including genealogists, journalists, internal staff, potential donors, academic researchers, and students.

Both Matt and Sierra emphasized that their goals include being “hands on” librarians and archivists, and acting as bridges to the collections for the public. Their presentations demonstrated their many different access points for their collections, including finding aids, an online catalogue, and educational programs. Check out the library's events page for upcoming sessions, such as Personal Digital Archiving.

Many thanks to Sierra and Matt for taking the time to share their beautiful collection with the Chapter!

## August Happy Hour at Hofbrauhaus



Photo credits: Leslie Eibl



## SLA CAREER CENTER

[www.sla.org/careers](http://www.sla.org/careers)

Find the right job in your industry!

- Post resumes
- Search for jobs
- Career Advice
- Useful Resources
- Seminars



Photo credit: Brooke Hyatt



### *President's message— Leslie Eibl* (continued from page 1)

Finally, this issue of the Confluence was completed with the assistance of a student member, Bryan McGeary, who answered the call to "Shadow a Member" in the Spring 2015 *Confluence*. If anyone is interested in shadowing one of our board members or committee chairs, please do contact me. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the chapter, gain some leadership experience, and work with a truly amazing group of colleagues.



## Upcoming Events:

### Wednesday, October 21st

Please join the Pittsburgh Chapter of SLA in celebrating Open Access Week 2015. Open Access Week is October 19th through October 25th.

Dr. Lauren Collister, Scholarly Communications Librarian for the University of Pittsburgh, will speak about the importance of open access for changing current paradigms. She plans to address how librarians in all sectors – public, academic, and corporate – can embrace and implement open access initiatives, even in small ways.

Our program will be held on **Wednesday, October 21st** from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the **Amy Knapp Room of Hillman Library**. There will be a no-host dine-around beforehand – place TBD. Please use [this link](#) to register for the program and the dine-around.



Photo credit: Lauren Collister

Dr. Collister holds dual Bachelor's degrees in Music and Linguistics from the Ohio State University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to becoming the Scholarly Communications Librarian at Pitt, she was an Electronic Publishing Associate within the University Library System. In addition to her library duties, she is an adjunct professor at Southern New Hampshire University. She is also an active scholar in sociolinguistics, digital gaming, and semiotics. Outside of work, she plays the trombone in the East Winds Symphonic Band. She has two cats and three step-cats.

[pittsburgh.sla.org](http://pittsburgh.sla.org)

**The Confluence** is the newsletter of the *Special Libraries Association - Pittsburgh Chapter*. The next issue will be published in **Winter 2016**. Article submission deadline is TBA. Please contact Brooke Hyatt ([brookehyatt@gmail.com](mailto:brookehyatt@gmail.com)) and Leslie Eibl ([leslieeibl@gmail.com](mailto:leslieeibl@gmail.com)) co-editors, with any submissions, issues or concerns relating to the newsletter.

### November 12, 2015

Annual business meeting and awards presentation

The 2015 Chapter Awards will be presented at the **Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentation, THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 12** at the **ALL INDIA** restaurant in Oakland.



2013 Awards Recipients  
Photo credit: Brooke Hyatt

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