



CTLS Newsletter

October 2011

No. 105

Fall Membership Meeting Wrap Up

By Pat Tuohy

It was another great turnout as members from all parts of CTLS converged on Cedar Park on September 23rd for the Annual Fall Membership Meeting of the Central Texas Library System. More than 108 citizen representatives, librarians, board members, and friends gathered at the Cedar Park Recreation Center to re-connect with colleagues and conduct system business.

Leading the agenda was the election of board members for terms which run from January 2012 to December 2014. Running for the first time was Linda Coker, from the San Marcos Public Library in Place 3. Seeking re-election was Barbara Crossno – Place 6. There was no candidate for Place 9, so the Board will fill this position by appointment later this fall. These candidates for board positions were unopposed; the membership elected these individuals by acclamation.

The serious nature of the actions taken by the 82nd Legislative Session was reinforced by a presentation from Deborah Littrell, Director of Library Development & Networking with the Texas State Library. Ms. Littrell noted the many layoffs at the State Library and the severe cuts to critical library programs such as Loan Star Libraries Grants and TexShare. The elimination of funding for the regional systems was also mentioned.

James Karney, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and Waco Library Director, gave a very sobering and clear explanation of the transition CTLS must make for it to continue as a viable self sustaining organization. With the total elimination of state grant funds, CTLS must rely on its members to step up if libraries want to continue to receive services from the System. This will involve a number of fundraising strategies that will close the gaps between resources and services.

Those services most valued by libraries are technology consulting, youth services, electronic resources, and general library continuing education. Again and again, members have identified on-site workshops and easy access to library experts as the most important services CTLS delivers to libraries.

Since there is no “magic bullet” in fundraising, revenues will need to come from a number of sources. Individual fundraising targets will be set for each stream of potential revenue. Those revenue sources are: annual membership fees, aggressive pursuit of grants from foundations and corporations, annual donor campaign, fees for services, entrepreneurial services, and events. Money raised in each of these endeavors will be used to pay for the core services that members need.

The membership heard from the Executive Director about the accomplishments of 2011 and the more formidable challenges and opportunities for 2012. Among the many accomplishments in 2011 was the successful and popular Digital Literacy Corps which brought contract trainers to 30 CTLS libraries for the purpose of teaching public library users the basics of using a computer. With State of Texas general revenue dollars, CTLS contract trainers taught over 1,000 patrons how to use the electronic resources they need to become and stay productive members of the workforce.

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CTLS Board of Directors:

Peggy Gibson	<i>Chair</i>
Larry Ringer	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Lyle Thormann	<i>Secretary</i>
Eileen Altmiller	<i>Treasurer</i>
Barbara Crossno	<i>At Large</i>
Curt Busk	<i>At Large</i>
Ruth Jennings	<i>At Large</i>
Dick Lavine	<i>At Large</i>
Lynne Holle	<i>At Large</i>

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Looking ahead to the 2012 fiscal year, the System faces different challenges than it did at the start of 2011. Because of the drastic cuts to all critical library programs, it will be the Corporation's job to help libraries adjust to this decreased revenue. CTLS staff has pledged to provide members with the best consulting services and resource sharing programs possible. Members can count on CTLS for consulting, a dynamic web page, a wonderful monthly newsletter, and listserves that keep you up-to-date, connected, and informed.

Despite the dismal news, CTLS was awarded a Cooperation Grant in August. This grant will bring fun, learning, and kids together in Summer 2012. Science Rocks! is a joint project of the Alamo Area Library System, the Texas Association of Minorities in Engineering, and CTLS. This exciting program will bring high quality hands-on science and math displays to 40 public libraries across central Texas.

Lisa Youngblood spoke to the members on behalf of the Friends of CTLS. She urged all present to become members of this organization in the new fiscal year. The Friends will play a large role in providing and supporting continuing education for librarians since the State Library has eliminated this as a program in 2012. All were invited to attend the FOCTLS meeting that followed the Membership Meeting.

Judy Bergeron, Librarian of the Smithville Public Library, spoke movingly to the membership about the impact the Bastrop wildfires have had on the people in that county. She thanked the many members who have offered to help the libraries in Bastrop County cope with this disaster. While there is no immediate need for books or materials for the libraries, there may be a long term need that interested libraries will be able to help with in the future.

The membership meeting was followed in the afternoon by an insightful program aimed at helping librarians use personal electronic devices to serve the teens in their communities. Participants left with a new knowledge of how teens use devices and how librarians can serve this very important user group. This workshop is the first event of the year to be sponsored by the Friends of CTLS.

A minimum of sound to a maximum of sense

By Kam McEvoy

Are you sometimes caught unaware by chances to talk up public libraries with members of your community? What could you say about libraries in the time it takes to ride an elevator with someone influential? Or waiting in the check-out line at the grocery store? Here are some easy talking points, or library advocacy sound bytes, from Janet Jai's 2011 book, *Saving Our Public Libraries: Why We Should. How We Can*. Sound bites can often start the conversation of funding and advocacy. Your library is such an amazing resource to your community, and decision makers need to know it!

- Libraries are the cornerstone of literacy in the U.S.
- Libraries are *the* centers for lifelong learning in the U.S.
- Libraries become crucial in times of economic downturn.
- Libraries support the workforce, especially *now*.
- Libraries are essential in bridging the digital divide.
- Libraries are essential in bridging the economic divide.
- Libraries are the foundation of democracy.
- Libraries today are a critical part of the social safety net.
- Libraries provide support for schools and education in general.
- Libraries are a key resource for homeschoolers.
- Libraries are community anchors and one of the last safe gathering places for children.
- The library's Children's Room is a wondrous place, and are part of the magic that libraries create in children's lives.
- Libraries reach out to teens.
- Inside and out, libraries serve older adults and the elderly.
- Libraries offer homebound books for those who are ill long-term or temporarily.
- Libraries help integrate new citizens into the community.
- Libraries are neutral and high touch. (Interaction delivered democratically.)
- Libraries are centers of quiet and focused concentration in a noisy sound-byte society.
- Libraries are a positive economic force in the community with great ROI. You can always ask a librarian (or library).

Free E-Rate Consulting and Preparation through CTLS

CTLS will pay an outside contractor (Toby Sykes with eRate Solutions) to prepare and submit E-rate applications on behalf of 30 CTLS libraries for funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2012-2013. If you are interested, please email me at kam.mcevoy@ctls.net and I will put you on the list of libraries to receive this free (or, free to you) support. We've been getting really good feedback about Toby, so I hope to hear from record numbers of you! Last fiscal year he secured over \$78,000 for 24 libraries.

News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference Frisco, Texas

This year's Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference was in Texas for the first time. A dozen people associated with CTLS attended: Board member Barbara Crossno (Fairfield); library directors Susie Stone (Centerville); Shanda Subia (Lampasas); Carolyn Manning (Wimberley); Sandy Schultz (Liberty Hill); Trella Hughes (McGregor); Phyllis Macmillan (Marlin); Tessy Crawford (Bremond); Rhonda Bass (Groesbeck); library staff members Tommi Myers (Llano) and Russell Keelin (Hillsboro); and me. Executive Director Pat Tuohy gave a keynote address on Friday, impressing the attendees. Good job, Pat!

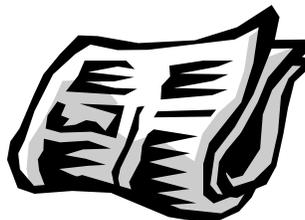
The conference focused solely on the needs and interests of rural & small libraries. Speakers presented sessions on marketing, signage, working with trustees, adult programming, and more. Other featured presenters were Jerilynn Williams (Montgomery County Library and current TLA president), who spoke on Intellectual Freedom, and Linda Braun (faculty member at Simmons College in Boston), whose talk was entitled "Nostalgia is Not Going to Save Your Library." So, what WILL save libraries? **Connecting:** face-to-face, virtual, or a combination. Our CTLS librarians are good at that. You care about your communities and exemplify a level of service that larger libraries envy. Pat yourselves on the back and keep up the good work!

Adult Programs on a \$0 Budget

One of the threads running through the programs was innovation. Each presenter showed how they did something new, or thought up something creative, which is what our librarians do every day. Another thread was that a library staff member with an unusual background can bring a whole new set of ideas to the library.

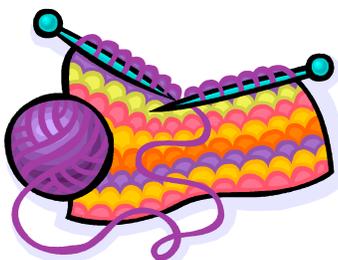
Joey Holmes of the Laurens County Library in South Carolina has a background in Criminal Justice and Wildlife Science. Among his bright ideas: The more positive things people read in the paper about the library, the more people realize that "there is always something good going on at the library."

For those of you who don't write a weekly column in your local newspaper, Joey says, "If you want to BE in the paper once a month, you have to DO something once a month!" Smart man! He set out to create programs that would bring people into his library, even though he didn't have the title of Adult Programming Specialist. He just did it. Joey kept statistics on how successful each program was, repeating the well attended ones and analyzing the less popular ones.



Joey said that public relations informs, inspires, and persuades. When planning programs, ask someone with special knowledge to present or entertain. Call your friends who do an unusual craft, or play a musical instrument. Their library has held bluegrass "jam sessions" and followed with a program on the history of local music.

Raise your own money by asking around your community. Write your own press releases. Learn to use Microsoft Publisher. Create library bookmarks with a photo, library hours, address, and contact information. Contact local media and home school families.



Among their successful programs: Knitting night; quilting night (both of these work in the winter; don't try them in July!); high school orchestra concert in December; Black History Month (February); Peace Corps Month (March; reunion of former PC members); Preservation architect; Smithsonian traveling exhibit; Railroad history of their town; State Parks outreach coordinator; Fitness for beginners (January, after all that holiday indulging!); World War II letters (later made into a book); Military band concert (July); the "Rabbit Lady" (local rabbit raiser); and a program for new moms. Make your library the information center and gathering place, so that people can say, "There is always something good going on at the library!"

Windows 7 Tricks

By Holly Gordon

Adapted from <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/top-5-commonly-reported-windows-7-problems-fix/>

Many of you are purchasing new computers and discovering that the Windows XP operating system is no longer available. To prepare for migration to a new computer, you need to run a full backup...and then get rid of as much old junk as you can. Be harsh – this is sort of like moving to a new house; you don't want to move useless stuff onto a new computer! I tend to be low tech with migrations, moving data to a thumb drive or portable hard drive, then moving it on to the new PC. You will also need to find your licenses, software CDs, or websites because you will need to reinstall your software on the new computer.

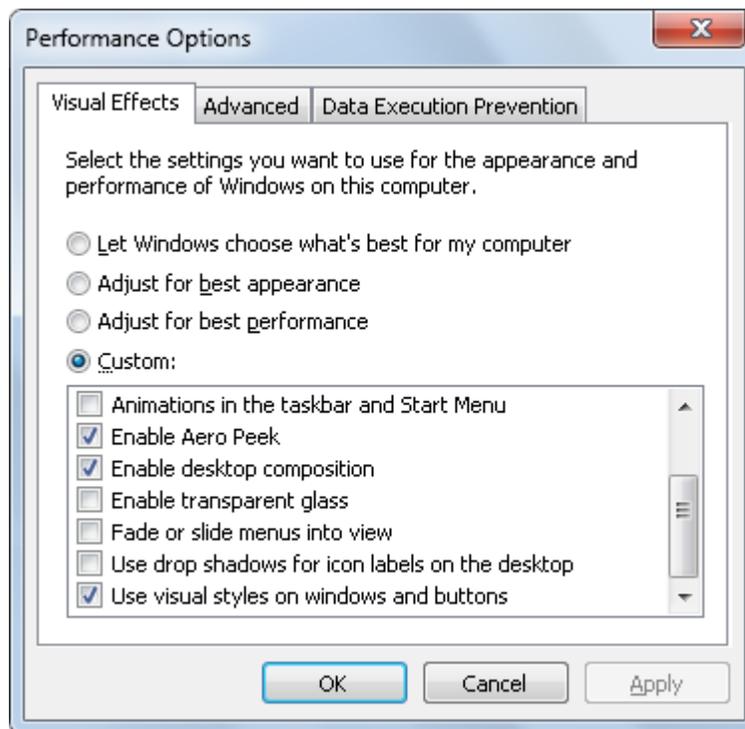
Will all the software you are running on your old computer work on the newer Windows 7 operating system? What about your printers? The best way to check is to run this on the computer you will be replacing:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/get/upgrade-advisor.aspx>

Here are some fixes for the most common problems folks have with new Windows 7 systems:

1. Windows 7 Seems Slow

Windows 7 is hungry for resources. It features many visual effects that draw heavily on your graphics card and system memory. If your system was slow out of the box, you can easily fix that by turning off superfluous effects. Go to > *Start* and type 'performance' in the search field. Select > 'Adjust the appearance and performance of Windows' from the results. The > *Performance Options* window will open. Under > *Visual Effects* select > *Adjust for best performance*. If you would like to retain a nice interface, select > *Custom* and check > 'Use visual styles on windows and buttons'.



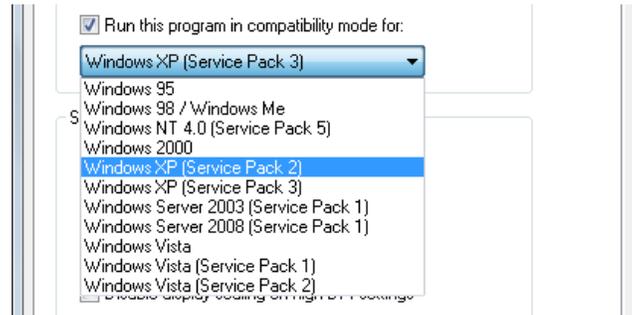
2. Windows Aero Not Working

Check out this article on [How To Enable & Troubleshoot Aero Effects In Windows 7](http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/enable-troubleshoot-aero-effects-windows-7/) (<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/enable-troubleshoot-aero-effects-windows-7/>). In addition to this article, you should make sure that your graphics card supports Aero and that graphics driver is up to date. However, if your computer came with Windows 7 this should not be an issue.

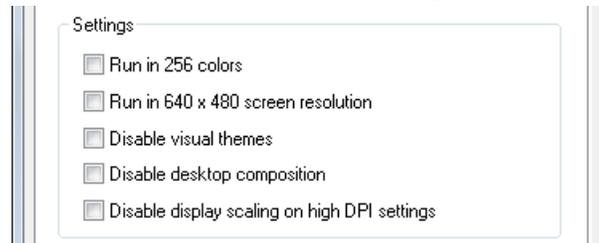
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3. Older Programs Not Compatible

As I mentioned above, before upgrading to Windows 7, it is advisable to check which of your programs will be compatible using the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor. However, as outlined in [How To Use Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor To Check PC Compatibility](http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/windows-7-upgrade-advisor-check-pc-compatibility/) (<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/windows-7-upgrade-advisor-check-pc-compatibility/>), you may have to do a manual check at the [Windows 7 Compatibility Center](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/compatibility/windows-7/en-us/default.aspx) (<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/compatibility/windows-7/en-us/default.aspx>) for many other programs. Now, if you have already upgraded and it turns out that a program is not compatible, there is a way out: Windows 7 Compatibility Mode. To install a program in Compatibility Mode, right-click its > *installation file* and select > *Properties*. In its > *Properties* windows switch to the > *Compatibility* tab, check > 'Run this program in compatibility mode for:' and from the > *pull-down menu* choose the latest version of Windows of which you know that the program was running on.



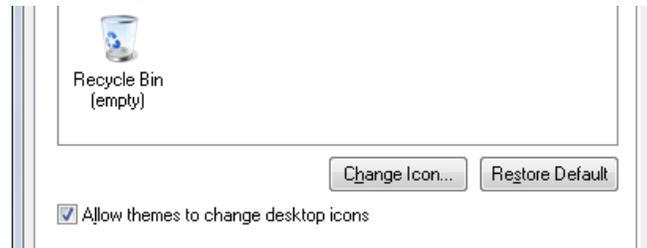
You may have to repeat this step with the program itself once it is installed. Right-click the > *program icon*, select > *Properties*, switch to > *Compatibility* tab, check > 'Run this program in compatibility mode for:', and choose the respective Windows operating system. Furthermore, you can change the settings for the respective program and you should explore these, depending on the issue you're facing.



Finally, if you went with Windows 7 Professional or up, you can use Windows 7's XP Mode. It runs Windows XP as a virtual machine and you can install all programs that worked on Windows XP in this environment. Ars Technica has a good article on [Windows 7's XP Mode](http://arstechnica.com/microsoft/reviews/2010/01/windows-xp-mode.ars) (<http://arstechnica.com/microsoft/reviews/2010/01/windows-xp-mode.ars>).

4. New Themes Change Custom Icons

So you switched themes and found that some of your custom icons were changed? That's easy to prevent. Right-click > *desktop*, select > *Personalize*, in the control panel windows that opens switch to > *Change Desktop Icons*, and in the > *Desktop Icon Settings* window uncheck > 'Allow themes to change desktop icons'.



Another common issue, which only seems to occur in older laptops, is that Windows 7 falsely reports an empty battery and subsequently shuts down. [ITExpertVoice](http://itexpertvoice.com/home/fixing-five-common-windows-7-annoyances/) (<http://itexpertvoice.com/home/fixing-five-common-windows-7-annoyances/>) provides a workaround, preventing Windows 7 from shutting down when it thinks the battery is empty. Unfortunately, this may leave you with a sudden laptop death when the battery really runs out.

Finally, many Windows 7 problems can be fixed with these tools. MakeUseOf has reviewed [FixWin](http://fixwin.en.softonic.com/) (<http://fixwin.en.softonic.com/>) in the article [How To Fix Common Windows Problems In A Snap With FixWin](http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/fix-common-windows-problems-in-a-snap-with-fixwin) (<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/fix-common-windows-problems-in-a-snap-with-fixwin>). Another option is [QuickFix](http://leelusoft.blogspot.com/2009/12/7-quick-fix.html) (<http://leelusoft.blogspot.com/2009/12/7-quick-fix.html>), which contains 21 common Windows 7 fixes. Since it is a portable app, it could one day help you out of a virus attack or restore default Windows 7 behavior.

Youth Services News

By Kim Lehman

Exciting Grant Projects

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission awarded grants to CTLS and member libraries. Congratulations!

Central Texas Library System

The Science Rocks! program will give third through seventh graders exposure to science and technology career options through hands-on summer science and math programs at 40 public libraries in the summer of 2012. This collaboration between the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), the Central Texas Library System, Inc., (CTLS) and the Alamo Area Library System (AALS) will provide fun summer learning for students primarily in rural areas; spark an interest in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math); increase access to engaging STEM resources; and develop diverse local partnerships with STEM-related businesses and organizations.

Participating Libraries from CTLS

Brenham/ Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library, Bryan+College Station Library, Buda Public Library, Gatesville Public Library, Groesbeck/Maffett Memorial Library, Hamilton Public Library, Harker Heights Public Library, Hewitt Public Library, Hillsboro Public Library, Lampasas Public Library, Llano County Library, Madison County Library, Marble Falls Public Library, Marlin Public Library, San Marcos Public Library, Schulenburg Public Library, Smithville Public Library, Taylor Public Library, and Waco-McLennan County Public Library.

Smithville Public Library

The Smithville Public Library, Smithville Independent School District and the Smithville Community Network will collaborate on SkillSTAR Texas, a project to develop workforce-oriented training.

Georgetown Public Library

Georgetown Public Library will operate a bookmobile to provide library materials to seniors and residents with disabilities or limited transportation.

Wells Branch Community Library

Wells Branch Library will conduct its Everyone Reads program, which encourages families and neighbors to read together.

Gingerbread Houses for the Holidays

It's never too late to start planning for December programs. What about gingerbread houses? This family program is very popular. The time and effort put into this program will be repaid in lovely memories for a lifetime for your patrons. Then again, you can let other people do all the work and the library can be a display place.

Contact a community organization and offer the library as place to "show off" the gingerbread houses they create. A variation on that idea would be to get different organizations to create houses with their own time and materials. Maybe you could have a little open house with light refreshments. Some groups to contact: homeschoolers, scouts groups, church organizations, senior centers, or recreation centers.



Display them or use it as a fund raiser. People from the community could vote with quarters for their favorite house. If you don't want change flying around, have people purchase tickets to put in a box as a way to vote for their favorite house. Call the newspaper. Create an electronic flyer that people from the participating organizations can easily send out to all their contacts. A friendly competition will bring people into the library to cast their votes. This could be fun. It would cost you nothing, create community partners, increase your circulation, and attract good will publicity.



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Tips for a Library Program:

- Register families or kids
- Use graham crackers instead of gingerbread.
- Include all ages of children with at least one adult per family.
- Put store bought frosting into plastic sandwich bags, cut a small corner off the bag and squeeze out to attach the candy.
- Use empty school milk cartons. Ask a teacher to collect them and see if the cafeteria staff can run them through the dishwasher.
- Buy bags of candy on sale after Halloween.
- Build the house in advance with graham crackers
- Get volunteers to build the houses in advance – teenagers, homeschoolers, garden club...
- Make sure you have lots of frosting either store bought or homemade.
- Give prizes out for the most beautiful, craziest, imaginative or let patrons choose a peoples' choice award.

Material ideas:

- Sled: Use 2 small candy canes and a small graham cracker section or other small cookie.
- Trees: Use pointy ice cream cones with flat bottoms.
- Bushes: green gum drops
- Fences: pretzel sticks
- Doors and shutters: Hershey bars
- Snowflakes: shredded coconut

Items to use: Hershey Kisses, lollipops, lifesavers, gum drops, licorice, chocolate chips, licorice, crackers, cookies, candy bars, pretzels ...just about anything!

Photo examples:

Bastrop Public Library – You may recognize our friends from Bastrop!
<http://tinyurl.com/64cq2ur>

North County Library in Galena and the Main Library in Chestertown
<http://tinyurl.com/6dfdcoo>

Norfolk Public Library
<http://tinyurl.com/646y4uo>

Sure Fire Storytime Book

Pete the Cat is rocking in picture books written by Eric Litwin and illustrated by James Dean. This cool cat started as a mere illustration, then went on to be a self published book. After posting a video on You Tube, Harper Collins picked it up. Now it is a best selling book and winner of the 2011 Kiddo Awards the very best books of the year for getting kids absolutely addicted to reading. The songs in the books are very catchy so beware. You will be singing them for the rest of the day.

Do a search for the Pete the Cat on You Tube or go to:
Pete the Cat – Rocking in My School Shoes
<http://tinyurl.com/3lqy7v2>

Pete the Cat – I Love My White Shoes
<http://tinyurl.com/363ubup>

Free downloads of both songs available at:
<http://tinyurl.com/3ojvu3d>

National Gaming Day

November 12
Registration is officially open for American Library Association's National Gaming Day@ Your Library. There are some great donations again this year (while they last!). There will be two national video game tournaments. Cedar Park, Bastrop, Buda, and Belton have already signed up to participate. For more information and to register go to <http://ngd.ala.org/>.



CTLS Calendar of Events

October	4	Plinkit Share ~ Wells Branch, TX
	12	Youth Share ~ Bee Cave, TX
	13	Youth Share ~ Mexia, TX
	18	CTLS Board of Directors Meeting ~ San Marcos, TX
	21	TLA District 3 Meeting ~ Georgetown, TX
November	11	CTLS Closed ~ Veteran's Day
	15	CTLS Board of Directors Meeting ~ CTLS Office, Austin, TX
	15	Top Tech Trends for Non-Techies ~ San Marcos, TX
	16	Top Tech Trends for Non-Techies ~ Waco, TX
	24-25	CTLS Closed ~ Thanksgiving

Register for CTLS workshops and events online at www.ctls.net!

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Katelyn Patterson , <i>Office Coordinator</i>	katelyn.patterson@ctls.net	x 13

COME TO SHOWCASE !

Featuring central Texas' best educational and entertaining performers and speakers for children, teens and adults



*Do you ever need to hire
an educational, entertaining performer for a
school, library, museum or community event?*

SEE the talent before you HIRE!

Showcase is an annual preview event for libraries, schools, museums, PTA's and other program planners. It's your time to see in-person demonstrations from Texas performers, speakers, authors and other presenters, both educational and entertaining. Showcase is sponsored by the Central Texas Library System, Inc.

Attendees - Take time to SEE the performers and speakers BEFORE you hire them. Visit the exhibits. Learn how to get money to pay for performers. Win door prizes! *Everyone in your community who books entertainment or educational presentations is invited to attend.*

Performers & Exhibitors - Showcase your talent on-stage and through one-on-one time with attendees in the exhibit area.

Come see lots of NEW performers!
They have open slots for summer events and beyond.

Date: Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Refreshments and sign-in, 8:15-8:45 a.m.

Location: Georgetown Public Library, 402 West 8th Street, Georgetown, Texas

Attendee Registration: Cost is \$25 for CTLS member libraries; \$35 for non-members. Register online at www.CTLS.net. *Fees include refreshments; lunch is on your own.*

Performer & Exhibitor Registration: Fees vary; info at www.CTLS.net



For more information, contact
Kim Lehman at Kim.Lehman@ctls.net or 512-583-0704 x17
Check out over 200 entries in the **CTLS Performer's List** at www.ctls.net

SEE YOU AT SHOWCASE - DECEMBER 2, 2011
Georgetown Public Library

The CTLS Newsletter is distributed every month and is also available online at www.ctls.net.

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Central Texas Library System

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Have a spoooooooky Halloween!