

CTLS Newsletter

April 2013 No. 120

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From the Executive Director

By Pat Tuohy

It is with regret that we announce the imminent closing of the North Texas Library Partners regional library cooperative as of April 30, 2013. The NTLP Board of Directors made this decision at its March 25th meeting and a public announcement was made March 29th by Carolyn Brewer, NTLP Executive Director.

This action leaves CTLS and the Harrington Library Consortium as the only systems remaining from the original 10 library systems created in 1969 by the Texas Library Systems Act. CTLS will be the only nonprofit library system that serves any library in any region in Texas. The Harrington Library Consortium in Amarillo serves only libraries in the former Texas Panhandle Library System. We share a deep sense of loss at the announcement of the closure of NTLP.



In a letter to the NTLP membership, Ms. Brewer wrote.

"When the TSLAC announced that funding for the State Library Systems program would not continue past August 31, 2012, the NTLP Board and the staff decided that the independent nonprofit could continue serving libraries and anticipated that the organization would be funded through membership fees, fees for services, donations, sponsorships, grants, and contracts. This decision was reinforced through a vote of the NTRLS membership...With the change, NTLP reduced its staff to about one-third of the previous level. NTLP's office space had already been reduced to about one-third of the original space during a recent move."

"In its first year without government funding, NTLP has grown to 80 member libraries, a figure which exceeds any previous NTRLS membership number and includes 15 libraries from the former NETLS and CTLS areas. However, \$80,000 total revenue from membership fees represents only about 25% of NTLP's minimum annual operating budget for the current level of service, and many libraries could not pay the cost of membership nor the cost of individual services...NTLP has been seeking support from donors and sponsors but to date no funds have come from those sources."



CTLS Board of Directors

Larry Ringer
Chair

Eileen Altmiller
Vice Chair

Barbara Crossno
Secretary

Gretchen Pruett
Treasurer

Larry Koeninger
Ann Moore
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“By mid-March NTLP Board and staff had already recognized that a crisis point was coming, and we were anticipating staff salary cuts in order to continue operations to the end of the fiscal year. Recent developments, however, have made it futile to attempt to carry on...On Monday, March 25, NTLP received a letter from the Texas Attorney General's office supporting TSLAC's position on the cash reserve issue. The Board plans to contest the amount, but it will mean diverting staff time to researching and documenting the history of the cash reserve. This development, when we were already facing a financial crisis with no solid funding base sufficient to carry us into the next fiscal year, led the NTLP Board of Directors to advise an immediate and orderly shutdown of the organization since it would no longer be able to serve its mission.”

“Both the Board and the staff are sad to have to accept this decision, which we know will adversely affect so many libraries. We continue to believe in the value of nonprofit support for libraries and for collaborative library projects, and we hope that sometime in the future such efforts may be funded at a level that makes them viable. It is clear that such services cannot depend solely on funding from cash-strapped public libraries. Thank you to all of you who have supported NTLP and NTRLS during its nearly-40-year history.”

How does this affect CTLS member libraries?

CTLS is on strong financial footing and plans to continue being in the business of serving Texas libraries for years to come. We are fortunate that CTLS has not had to deal with the issue of ownership of the State Cash Reserve which has been so central to the challenges facing NTLP. Our approach early on for keeping CTLS a viable and responsive organization has been to seek income streams from many sources. Those resources include the Annual Giving Campaign, membership fees, consulting services, partnerships with other organizations, and grants from foundations and corporations. Your contributions, both financial and organizational to this nonprofit have made all the difference in the world.

Texas libraries benefit from having a number of strong and dedicated service providers who hold the health and strength of these institutions as a top priority. Recognizing the challenges of serving the huge diversity represented by Texas libraries, the CTLS nonprofit library system, none the less, will stay the course and continue to serve to our members. The Board of Directors, Executive Director, and the entire CTLS staff remain committed to serving you and the people of Texas.

Summer Reading Program Workshops



Stacey Phillips
from Waco



News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

Texas Books for your Library

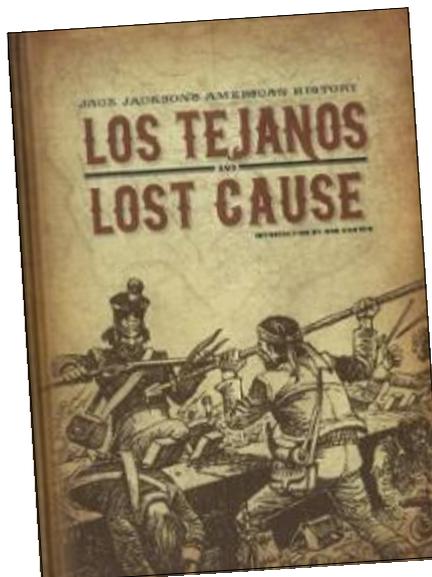
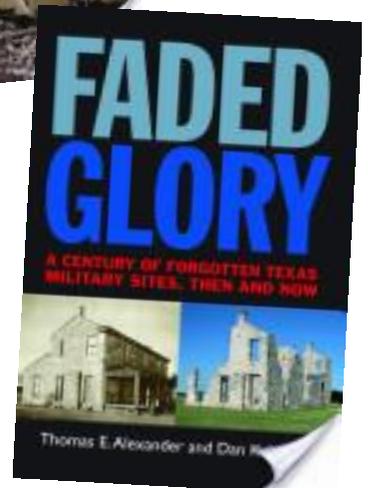
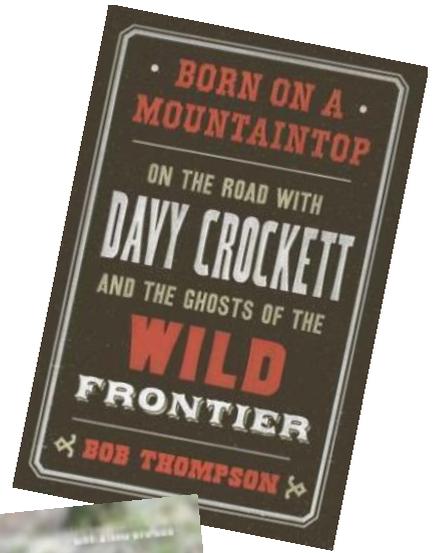
With Texas Independence Day on March 2 and San Jacinto Day on April 21, many people are looking for books about Texas. A new biography of Alamo hero and Tennessee congressman Davy Crockett has been published by Crown in March 2013. Born on a Mountaintop: On the Road with Davy Crockett and the Ghosts of the Wild Frontier was written by Bob Thompson, a former Washington Post journalist. The book "follows in Crockett's footsteps from his Tennessee roots to his death in Texas." Baby boomers (myself included) who grew up watching the Davy Crockett television shows will want to read this. It's \$27 and is available as an e-book.

Springtime gets us into the outdoors. Consider taking Texas Mushrooms: a Field Guide, published by University of Texas Press. The original edition was published in 1992; this updated version covers more than 200 species of mushrooms and has recipes. Color photos guide the user to the safe selections. Written by Susan and Van Metzler, the book is \$34.95

Texas A&M Press has published Faded Glory: a Century of Forgotten Texas Military Sites, Then and Now, by Thomas Alexander and Dan Utley. A \$29.95 paperback, the book is "richly illustrated" and includes "34 historic military sites that played a role in conflicts from 1845 to 1945." From Fort McKavett to Austin's Camp Mabry and Waco's Camp MacArthur, the book covers historic sites open to the public and others which are behind locked gates.

Graphic novel Los Tejanos & Lost Cause: Jack Jackson's American History, Volume 1 has been published in hardcover by Fantagraphics for \$35. Artist & author Jack Jackson is "one of the founders of the underground comics movement." Los Tejanos is about Juan Seguin, hero of the Texas Revolution, originally published in 1989. Lost Cause, which Jackson wrote in 1997, is about Texas after the War Between the States, also known as The Civil War.

Remember to keep your Texas books looking good. Mend those that need mending; replace those that are falling apart. Let me know if you have questions about newer editions.



Youth News

By Kim Lehman

Science Activities for Elementary Ages

Dancing Spaghetti

This activity is a great twist on the vinegar and baking soda idea. All you need are pasta noodles, water, baking soda and vinegar.

[Click here for a video and directions.](#)

The Marshmallow Challenge

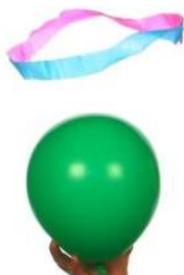
This is an easy and inexpensive program to implement. The task is simple: in eighteen minutes, teams must build the tallest free-standing structure out of 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string, and one marshmallow. The marshmallow needs to be on top.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Static Flying Bag

This is a similar concept to rolling a can with static electricity. Easy and inexpensive.

[Click here for a video and directions.](#)



Roll a Can with Static Electricity

All you need is an aluminum can and a balloon for some science fun.

[Click here for directions.](#)

Teflon Tape Secret Messages

Who doesn't like secret messages? All you need is Teflon tape, which you can get at a hardware store and permanent markers.

[Click here for a video and directions.](#)

Wind Up Racer

Potential and kinetic energy displayed in this fun hands-on experiment. For each child you will need a toothpick, spool, and rubber band.

[Click here for a video and directions.](#)

Spring Songs for Preschool Children



Rainbow 'Round Me

A cumulative sing by Song by Bev Bos, Tom Hunter & Michael Leeman.

[Click here for the video.](#)

Underneath My Big Umbrella

A Japanese rain song sung by Dena Wilder

[Click here for a video.](#)

Sing a Song of Springtime

Tune: Sing Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of springtime, birds are in the air.

Sing song of springtime, flowers every where.

Sing a song of Springtime, let your voices ring.

Can you think of anything, that's quite as nice as Spring?

Umbrella

Tune: Ever See a Lassie.

(You could do this with a parachute)

Come under my umbrella, umbrella, umbrella.

Come under my umbrella, it's going to rain.

There's thunder & lightning. Thunder & lightning.

(shaking parachute)

Come under my umbrella. It's going to rain.

ALSC Notable Lists 2013

[Notable Children's Books.](#)

The list of titles includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and picture books of special interest, quality, creativity, and value to children 14 years of age and younger.

[Notable Children's Videos](#)

The list includes videos for children 14 years of age and younger that exhibit especially commendable quality, show respect for children's intelligence and imagination, and reflect and encourage the interests of children in exemplary ways.

[Notable Children's Recordings](#)

The list includes recordings for children 14 years of age and younger that demonstrate respect for young people's intelligence and imagination, exhibit venturesome creativity, and reflect and encourage the interests of children and young adolescents in exemplary ways.

Teen Events in Texas



YomiCon 2013

Friday, June 14
3 pm – 8 pm
Carver Branch Library
1161 Angelina St , Austin, TX 78702

YomiCon is the Austin Public Library's annual Anime and Manga Convention for Teens. It is a HUGE event.

[FAQ](#)

Young Adult Book Festival (or YAB Fest)

May 11, 2013
8:30 am -5:30 pm
Round Rock High School
300 N. Lake Creek, Round Rock, Texas
78681



The Young Adult Book Festival (or YAB Fest) is a brand new book festival designed to promote reading among teens in the suburbs and surrounding areas of North Austin and northern Central Texas. Our goal is to provide students from Round Rock, Pflugerville, Georgetown, Leander, Taylor, and the Lake Travis school districts with a phenomenal experience to meet and interact with a wide variety of authors writing in different genres. Check us out at www.yabfest.com



Austin Teen Book Festival

September 28, 2013
Austin Convention Center
500 E. Caesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78701

This free event will be the 5th Annual Austin Teen Book Festival. It is HUGE!! The director is Jen Bigheart from the Westbank Community Libraries.

<http://austinteenbookfestival.com/>

Keep up with this event on [Facebook](#) and [Follow @AustinTBF](#)

YAK Fest

January 19, 2014
9 am – 5 pm
Keller High School
601 N. Pate Orr Rd. Keller, TX 76248 (Far north Texas)
<http://teacherweb.com/TX/KellerHighSchool/YAKFest/apt1.aspx>
https://twitter.com/YAK_Fest
<https://www.facebook.com/YAKbookfest>

What's Happening

Out of This World

The Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library in Edinburg participated in the "Out of This World" Conference & Festival in March. Stanton Friedman, the world's top UFO expert, and Travis Walton, whose UFO encounter inspired the Paramount movie Fire in the Sky, were featured speakers. The event was sponsored by the Edinburg Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation and the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library. What a great example of collaboration between community organizations.

Thank to Jose Tamez, Assistant Library Director, for sharing this information with us.



Bell/Whittington Public Library is Changing Their Community

RoseAleta Laurell and the Seniors in Cyberspace has been selected as the winner of the Libraries Change Communities Award! The award will be presented at the General Session I on Thursday morning, April 25. Congratulations!



Stars in Bee Cave

For the third consecutive year, Bee Cave Public Library has received a Five Star rating in Library Journal's national rating of public libraries, the LJ Index of Public Library Service 2012. Five stars is the highest rating that a library can receive. Of the 7,570 libraries in the nation that qualified for the 2012 ratings by submitting data, only 262 received Star designations based on their service output. Bee Cave is the only library in the Austin area to receive any stars at all, and one of only four libraries in Texas to receive a 5 Star rating this year.

"We are thrilled to be recognized again as a Star Library by Library Journal," said Library Director Barbara Hathaway. For the third year in a row, Bee Cave Public received 5 stars, placing it among the best in the nation. "In fact," Hathaway added, "we are one of only 4 Five Star Libraries in the entire state of Texas. Because this index compares us to libraries operating with comparable financial resources, it is a tribute to our hard-working staff who take great pride in their work and strive to deliver outstanding library service to our community."

Smithville Public Library Loves Stories

What does the Smithville Public Library have in common with the San Francisco Public Library, the Chicago Public Library, the Nashville Public Library, and 6 others in the US? They will all be part of the StoryCorps program sponsored by ALA! The goal of the project is to allow libraries to implement StoryCorps' interview methods and resources within a framework of high-quality library programming that will serve public libraries as they seek to expand their influence and engagement in their communities.

Click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.programminglibrarian.org/storycorps/libraries.html>

April Library Events

[Library Snapshot Day](#) - April 2013

Library Snapshot Day provides a way for libraries of all types across a state, region, system or community to show what happens in a single day in their libraries.

[School Library Month](#) - April 2013

School Library Month (SLM) is the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) celebration of school librarians and their programs. [First celebrated in 1985](#) (as School Library Media Month; the name was changed to School Library Month in 2010), every April school librarians are encouraged to create activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's educational career. Shares the theme of National Library Week.

[National D.E.A.R Day - National Drop Everything and Read Day](#) - April 12, 2013

D.E.A.R. stands for Drop Everything and Read. National D.E.A.R. Day is a special reading celebration to remind and encourage families to make reading together on a daily basis a family priority.

[National Library Week](#) - April 14-20, 2013

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries -- school, public, academic and special -- participate. Future National Library Week dates are on the [National Library Week/School Library Month Fact Sheet](#).

[National Library Workers Day](#) - April 16, 2013 (Tuesday of National Library Week)

First celebrated in 2004, the purpose is to recognize all library workers, including librarians, support staff and others who make library service possible every day

[National Bookmobile Day](#) - April 17, 2013 (Wednesday of National Library Week)

National Bookmobile Day is an annual celebration of the contributions of our nation's bookmobiles and the dedicated professionals who make quality bookmobile outreach possible in their communities.

[Celebrate Teen Literature Day](#) - April 18, 2013 (Thursday of National Library Week)

The purpose of Celebrate Teen Literature Day is to raise awareness among the general public that young adult literature is a vibrant, growing genre with much to offer today's teens. It showcases some award-winning authors and books in the genre, as well as highlighting librarians' expertise in connecting teens with books and other reading materials.

[Money Smart Week®](#) - April 20-27, 2013

The Money Smart Week® mission is to promote personal financial literacy. Libraries of all types in the Midwest have participated in Money Smart Week®, partnering with community groups, financial institutions, government agencies, educational organizations and other financial experts to help consumers learn to better manage their personal finances. Go to [Money Smart Week® website](#) to find out how to participate, as well as toolkits, resources and examples of programming for public, academic, school and special libraries

[Preservation Week](#) - April 21-27, 2013

Preservation Week offers an opportunity to celebrate collecting and preservation in your community, and to highlight your institution as a source of preservation information.

[Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros \(Día\)](#) - April 30, 2013

Children's Day/Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), is a celebration of children, families, and reading and held annually on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for every child regardless of linguistic and cultural background.

This information is from <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks>



CTLS Calendar of Events

Texas Library Association Convention

Fort Worth

April 24 - 27

CTLS will have a booth at the convention.

Booth 1742

Come say hi!

TLA Session

Stretching your Story Programs with Activity Songs and Participation

Friday 26,

10:15 - 11:50 AM

Presented by Kim Lehman

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



CTLS, Inc. Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide

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We look forward to hearing from you!