



CTLS Newsletter

September 2013 No. 127

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From the Executive Director

By Pat Tuohy

Fiscal Year 2014 starts this month and CTLS members have cause for celebration. After many organizational changes, a radical downsizing, and worrisome financial uncertainty, this membership-driven organization has completed its first year as a self-sustaining nonprofit organization. This new chapter which started one year ago continues as CTLS reaches out to form alliances with organizations that share our values and goals. The CTLS Membership Meeting on September 20th in Pflugerville will highlight our existing partnerships and introduce new connections for the new fiscal year.

On the agenda are representatives of those partner organizations CTLS will be working with this fiscal year. Our partnership with TAME –Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering – has brought the Trailblazer Hands On Science Trailer to 65 libraries across Texas since the summer of 2012. Savita Raj, the Executive Director of TAME, will speak to the importance of inspiring a love of science and technology in our children. Savita's message of how public libraries are uniquely positioned to promote STEM year-round will inspire and delight.

The Texas Association of Partners in Education is a statewide organization that helps local school districts to reach out and develop partnerships with local business, service organizations, and other public agencies. Jennifer Peters, the Executive Director of TAPE, wants to raise the profile of the local public library among her organization's membership. Jennifer will talk about how the public library can make contact at the local campus and school district level to cooperate and collaborate on programs that benefit our children.

Blaine Helwig, the principal of Graham Elementary School in Austin, will talk about how school and public libraries can slow down the learning loss experienced by children over the summer break. Sally Miculek, Youth Services Coordinator with the Austin Public Library, will join Blaine in discussing how important it is to keep our kids reading all year round. The Austin Independent School District and Austin Public Library are our newest grant partners in FY 2014. The Connect 4 Literacy project will bring school librarians and public librarians together to promote the love of reading and learning in our children.

Come join us in Pflugerville on September 20th to meet your neighbors and network with your colleagues from around the state! Together we are all Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide.

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CTLS Board of Directors

Pat Tuohy
Executive Director

Larry Ringer
Chair

Eileen Altmiller
Vice Chair

Barbara Crossno
Secretary

Gretchen Pruett
Treasurer

Larry Koeninger

Jean Phipps

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Candidates for CTLS Board of Directors

The three open Board of Director positions have generated a lot of interest among CTLS membership. As of the first week of September, 5 individuals have put their hats in the ring for the 3 open positions on the Board. One current board member is running unopposed for position 1 on the Board. Members will have a slate of candidates that represent libraries from 2 of the former regional systems. Below is the preliminary slate of candidates running in designated positions.



Position 1	Eileen Altmiller – Buda citizen candidate	Unopposed as of September 5
Position 4	Nicki Stohr, Director Wilson County Library in Floresville	Phyllis McMillian, Director, Marlin Public Library
Position 7	Kelly Skovbjerg, Director Patrick Heath Public Library, Boerne	Cathy Bell, Director, Nancy Carol Roberts Library, Brenham
Position 9	Alice Nixon, Corpus Christi citizen candidate	Unopposed

Candidate biographies and statement of concern will be available by the membership meeting date. Several of the candidates will be present and able to talk to the members about their vision and goals for CTLS into the future. Balloting will take place by mail in October, so this is a great opportunity to meet and greet the future leadership of your organization.

Welcome, Heather!

CTLS has a new employee! Heather Reynolds started with our new fiscal year as the staff member in charge of the Connect4Literacy grant. She comes to us from KY, but got her MLS at UT. She has been a Youth Services Librarian in Park City, UT and was a Community Relations Librarian in Jessamine County, KY before coming to CTLS.

Around the Stacks:

School & Public Library Partnerships Make Sense!

By Katelyn Patterson



School and public libraries have one major objective in common: literacy for children. And it doesn't stop there. They are serving the *same* children! *School Library Journal* had an article from earlier this year discussing wonderful advancements being made in school and public partnerships. Marta Murvosh wrote it back in January and it can be accessed [here](#).

As Murvosh's article suggests, there are so many benefits to creating a partnership between the local public library and the school library. For example, two resources are better than one when pooling funds for programming or materials. Additionally, both libraries could benefit from cutting services offered by the other such as access to duplicated databases.

Despite the many benefits a partnership provides, less than one-third of public and school libraries are pooling their resources for materials, according to Murvosh. Some of the concerns about a partnership are lack of support from administration, concern for impact on test scores, and just general difference of vision. But ALA has a committee on School and Public Library Cooperation that is working on a common concern of both public and school libraries: summer slide. And Susan Ballard, past president of the [American Association of School Librarians](#), suggests that there shouldn't be a difference in vision because collaboration means better service to children.

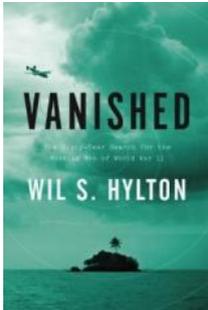
Murvosh goes on to give examples of successful partnerships from all over the country that I highly suggest checking out. As Murvosh's title suggests, children win when we join forces.

If your library has a good working relationship with your local schools, please share your secrets! Send them to Katelyn at katelyn.patterson@ctls.net.

News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

World War II Book Review



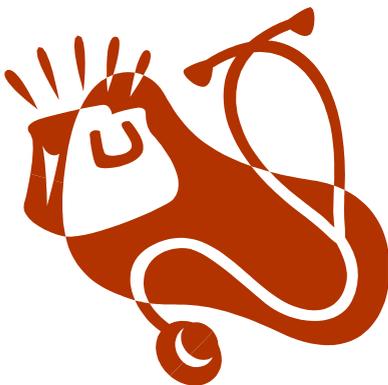
As the Greatest Generation gets smaller, World War II books seem to increase. A new book has come out focusing on the Pacific Theater, in which more than 56,000 American service members are still missing. Wil Hylton's *Vanished: The Sixty-Year Search for the Missing Men of World War II* highlights "an American bomber lost somewhere over the archipelago of Palau on September 1, 1944 with 11 men on board." In the past 60 years, the families of these men and the U. S. government have tried to find them. Riverhead/Penguin will publish this book in November at \$27.95.

Safety in the Library

How safe is your library? Do you have a good relationship with local law enforcement officials? Are there patrons with anger management or behavior issues that have you concerned about the safety of your staff? Schedule a meeting with a representative of your local police or sheriff's department and present your concerns. Most people think of libraries as safe places, but being open to the public means that anyone and everyone can walk in. Police or sheriff's deputies may not be aware that local people with serious problems may be sitting at your computers all day or creating disasters in your library's restrooms. Encourage law enforcement officials to visit the library, sit at a table to do reports, or just walk around. Invite them to get a library card. Discuss with them your procedures for disciplinary action for errant patrons. If you have felt threatened, ask them to agree to a pre-arranged code word that, when they are called and given that word, they know to head right over. If you have serious issues, consider having a "panic button" under the circulation desk that will alert them to come immediately.



Affordable Care Act



Libraries are places where patrons go to find out about things for which they may have sketchy details. Be prepared to be asked about the Affordable Care Act. Listen to every webinar you can, and allow your staff to do the same. Some libraries are designating one public access computer as the ACA station during the enrollment period, which starts October 1, 2013 and ends March 31, 2014. Patrons may not know they don't have to sign up online; paper and telephone enrollment are also available.

Discuss with your staff how to work with patrons, and talk to other community leaders about how they are handling enrollment and questions. Have a handout prepared to give to patrons with the website, the ways to sign up, and what they will need before sitting down in front of a computer (such as salary information). www.healthcare.gov/what-is-the-marketplace-in-my-state is a good place to start. Patrons who enroll online will get instant verification of qualifying for subsidies. Those who already have insurance through their employer are not eligible for this program.

Consider having a health literacy series of programs at your library. Invite local professionals to speak about health care issues such as nutrition or specific illnesses, like diabetes or high blood pressure. Give people a reason to come to the library for reliable health information. As one of the speakers said in a recent webinar, "Libraries need to remain relevant or be left in the dust." If there is a local health coalition, get involved with it. Ask how your library can help them achieve their goals. Offer your space for meetings, or house their materials if you have space. All these things will help your community.

Youth News

By Kim Lehman

Coming to a Library Near You

Banned Books Week : Sept. 22 - 28

For details go to <http://bannedbooksweek.org/>

There you will find a list of banned literary classics. You can also post your events. Libraries are encouraged to film their patrons reading excerpts of favorite banned books and upload the videos as part of their Banned Books Week celebration. Looking Ahead – You can get a grant for \$1000 or \$2500 for a banned books event. Grants are due the end of April for next year. http://www.ftrf.org/?2013_KrugBBW
ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom released the top ten most frequently challenged books list of 2012. Dav Pilkey's *Captain Underpants* series ranked #1.

Teen Read Week : Oct. 13 - 19



Seek the Unknown @ your library!

Everything you need can be found on the YALSA website <http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>

National Friends of Libraries Week : October 20 -26, 2013

http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek

Minecraft

Has anyone done a Minecraft program at your library? If you have, please contact me at 512-627-0113 or kim.lehman@ctls.net.

Some of you may ask, what is Minecraft? It is a game about breaking and placing blocks. It is slightly reminiscent of Legos. At first, people built structures to protect against nocturnal monsters, but as the game grew, players worked together to create wonderful, imaginative things. There are no specific goals for the player to accomplish, allowing players a large amount of freedom in choosing how to play the game. It is an amazing phenomena. So far 12,050,2912 people bought the PC/ Mac version of the game. And that number continues to grow every minute.



Reader's Advisory Blog

Julie Anne Korpi has a blog highlighting books on all levels from birth to high school. They are broken down by subject, reading level, and interest level: www.whatshouldirecommend.blogspot.com

Crafts for the Holidays

Karen Chance put together a list of craft links for specific holidays and topics:

<http://karenchance.blogspot.com/2010/11/crayons-crafts-and-coloring-oh-my.html>

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Call for 2015 Children's Program Manual Ideas Before September 30

Take a moment to look ahead to the Texas Summer Reading Program for 2015 and the theme of heroes. Your ideas are needed *now* for the 2015 [Collaborative Summer Library Program](#) (CSLP) Children's Program manual!

The slogan for the 2015 [Texas Summer Reading Program](#) and CSLP is "Every Hero Has a Story." Working chapter titles for the Children's manual are currently:

- Community Heroes
- Heroes Throughout History
- Superhero Training Camp (how to be a hero and look like a hero)
- Trusty Sidekicks
- Superheroes to the Rescue

Submit your best ideas for activities, crafts, books and music! Especially needed are:

- ideas for school visits and other ways to promote summer reading in your community
- ways to set the scene with props, bulletin boards and decor
- family literacy programming ideas
- ideas for puppet plays, especially with one or two puppeteers
- outreach ideas for underserved groups



Send your Children's Program Manual ideas before September 30, 2013 to Amanda Struckmeyer, 309 N. Hillside Terrace, Madison, WI 53705. For more information, she can be reached at [\(608\) 256-9737](tel:6082569737) or amandacross@gmail.com.

What's Happening Around the State

- Congratulations to **Mark Smith**, formerly of the Austin Public Library, the Texas State Library, the Texas Library Association, the Corsicana Public Library, LSSI, and the Riverside Public Library in California! Mark is the new Director and Librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Welcome home, Mark!
- Congratulations are in order to Laura Garcia, former interim director of the Corpus Christi Public Library. She has been named Director of the library. We're proud of you, Laura!
- From the list of Tocker grant recipients for the June 2013 application cycle, CTLS members receiving Tocker grants are:

Marlin
Hallettsville
Burnet
Lampasas
Liberty Hill
Rockdale
Marble Falls
Livingston
Palacios
Penitas



In all, 33 grants were awarded for a total of \$716,934. Thanks to the **Tocker Foundation** for helping our libraries improve.

Edge Initiative Taking Early Test Drive in Texas Libraries

The [Edge Initiative](#) is a voluntary assessment program that provides libraries with benchmarks, best practices, tools and resources that support continuous improvement and reinvestment in public technology services. And it's just around the corner! In January 2014, Edge will be launched nation-wide to all public libraries. Here in Texas, some of our libraries have been given a chance to give it an early test-drive. Two libraries, El Paso Public Library and New Braunfels Public Library, agreed to be part of an initial pilot, and another 25 Texas public libraries have stepped up to be part of a Soft Launch. Join me in congratulating these libraries for being Edge pioneers:



Abilene Public Library
Arlington Public Library
Austin Public Library
Balch Springs Library
Bastrop Public Library
Bedford Public Library
Bell/Whittington Public Library
Bertha Voyer Memorial Library
Castroville Public Library
Coleman Public Library
Dripping Springs Community Library
Ethel Whipple Memorial Library
Groves Public Library

Hidalgo Public Library
Houston Public Library
Hutchinson County Library
Lewisville Public Library
Palestine Public Library
Robert J Kleberg Public Library
Salado Public Library
San Antonio Public Library
Smithville Public Library
Tom Green County Library
Westbank Community Library
Wilson County Public Library

Want to learn more about the Edge Initiative?

Read a [case study](#) of another Texas pilot library, New Braunfels Public Library. In this interview, Library Director Gretchen Pruettt discusses how Edge has impacted her library both internally and externally, helping her present community outcomes to her local officials.

**Don't forget to follow *ETLS, Inc.*
on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#)!**

CTLS Calendar of Events

September 20, 2013

CTLS Membership Meeting

Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 West Pflugger St., Pflugerville

Registration: 9:15-10 a.m.

Meeting: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

September 20, 2013

Susan Wittig Albert

The Story of a Book: From Legacy to Author Published

Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 West Pflugger St., Pflugerville

Time: 1-3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

October 18, 2013

TLA District 3

Texas State University, San Marcos

For more information: <http://www.txla.org/district-meetings>

November 22, 2013

CTLS Workshop

Every Child Ready to Read

McAllen, TX

December 6, 2013

Performers Showcase

Georgetown Public Library

[Register Here](#)

Register with the above links or go to www.ctls.net

CTLS, Inc.

Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide

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Katelyn Patterson, Communications Coordinator

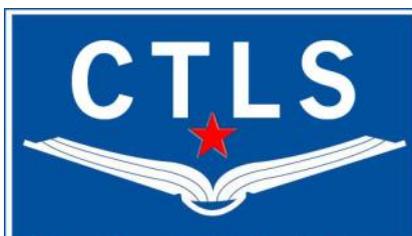
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Heather Reynolds, Connect4Literacy

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We look forward to hearing from you!



CTLS Fall Membership Meeting & Workshop

Workshop - The Story of a Book: From Legacy to Author Published

September 20, 2013

Pflugerville Public Library
1008 West Pfluger St.
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Registration: 9:15-10 a.m.

Meeting: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Afternoon workshop: 1-3:30 p.m.

Who should attend:

- Library directors
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Library lovers

Costs:

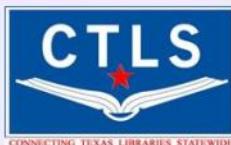
Morning meeting free.

Afternoon workshop

\$25 for members,

\$40 non-members

**Workshop attendees will receive
2.5 hours of continuing education**



Morning Membership Meeting

Come hear about the latest in statewide library programs and how CTLS has grown in the past year. Meet the candidates for board positions, hear about our new Commercial Partnership Program, and greet friends from across the system. The meeting is open to all and everyone is welcome!

Afternoon Workshop

Susan Wittig Albert

The Story of a Book: From Legacy to Author Published



Susan Wittig Albert will use her own experience in author-publishing *A Wilder Rose* to illustrate how new technologies are reshaping the publishing industry and the challenges they create for authors, libraries, and readers. Participants will learn about 1) the development of a book project from first idea, through research and early stages of development; 2) the

factors involved with the decision to author-publish; the various options among which authors may choose; and the way these impact the book itself; 3) the challenges of author-publication and author-marketing; 4) the challenges of placing author-published books on library shelves and e-shelves. Come join us for a fascinating look at this emerging trend in publishing.

Register online at www.ctls.net or call 1-800-262-4431

COME TO SHOWCASE !

Featuring some of the 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 CTLS, 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.*

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



Friday, December 6, 2013

Georgetown Public Library
402 West 8th Street
Georgetown, Texas (near Austin)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Refreshments and sign-in, 8:15-8:45 a.m.

Attendee Registration: Cost is \$30 for CTLS member libraries; \$60 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 or 800-262-4431.
Check out over 200 entries in the **CTLS Performer's List** at www.ctls.net