



CTLS Newsletter

March 2014 No. 133

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From the Executive Director

By Pat Tuohy

My Last Column

Spring is the best time of year to clean out the cob webs, finish up projects, and turn the page. For me, March 28th signals the end of an extraordinary 32 year connection with CTLS. Before coming to work at the System office, I was a branch librarian with the Austin Public Library. At APL, I loved library work and my public service job. But, branch librarianship, even at it most rewarding, was not the same as working with public librarians. My position as the CTLS Children's and Outreach Consultant turned into much more than a job. It became my calling.

At CTLS, I came to know the most dedicated and public spirited individuals the great state of Texas has to offer. Those individuals were (and are) the librarians, library board members, library staff, Friends of the Library, volunteers, and just plain do-gooders who work to make libraries happen in their communities. You have let me share in your triumphs, failures, intrigues, disappointments, and accomplishments. You have opened your homes and your hearts to me in ways that have made this job all the more wonderful and fulfilling. I have been truly blessed to be a part of CTLS for three decades. I will miss the turmoil, excitement, deadline, and even the stress. But most of all, I will miss the wonderful people who love and care for this beloved institution of ours – the public library.

My view of History

Since this is my last column as a CTLS staffer, I will take an abbreviated stroll down my personal memory lane to revisit a few of the milestones in the history of CTLS. In 1982, public libraries in Texas were just beginning to experience the tremors of the tsunami of change that would soon wash over libraries around the country. Ten strong regional library systems provided services that its members wanted and needed. Like the other 10 systems, CTLS was a division of the Austin Public Library – the MRC in



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central Texas. CTLS, like several other systems, had a circulating 16mm film collection, a Books- By-Mail program, a public relations clerk who did customized flyers for libraries, and a collection development program that bought a lot of books for member libraries. The age of computers in libraries of all sizes started for CTLS members in 1986. This was the year in which CTLS began purchasing and placing the first administrative-use PC's in libraries across the region. By 1992 every member library had at least one System-purchased computer in their building. In 1995, CTLS competed for and won two State Library grants to bring the first Internet connections into public libraries in central Texas. By 2000, the TIFF fund began its extraordinary work of building a strong IT infrastructure in public libraries all over Texas. Two years later, the very popular TANG program added a valuable tech support component to the services provided to member libraries.

In 2004, the CTLS Long Range Planning Committee proposed the creation of a nonprofit corporation to administer the System grant from the State Library. In March 2005, the first Board of Directors of CTLS met to approve the application to the State Library for the FY 2006 Systems Operations grant. On September 1, 2005 CTLS moved from under the aegis of the Austin Public Library and established its headquarters on West 41st Street in Austin as an independent nonprofit corporation.

By 2011, shifting political priorities of the State Librarian led to her decision to defund and dissolve the regional systems at the end of the following fiscal year. This resulted in the closing of seven of the ten regional systems by August 2012. To cut costs and retool our funding strategy, CTLS moved from the 41st offices to its present North Lamar location. CTLS staffing, services, and resources were cut by 80% as TSL pulled out of library development around the state.



This potentially devastating blow made clear that a new method of funding consulting and networking services was needed. To survive, the CTLS membership would have to evolve into a member-driven and self-supporting nonprofit organization. We adopted a new name – Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide – and broadened our scope to take in libraries from across the state. Membership dues, an annual giving campaign, workshop fees, and private foundation support became the revenue streams that allowed CTLS to stay in business that rocky first year. A general mem-

bership campaign aimed at libraries across the state resulted in a first year membership roster of 121 libraries. This astounding and positive response from libraries all over the state made all the difference in the world.

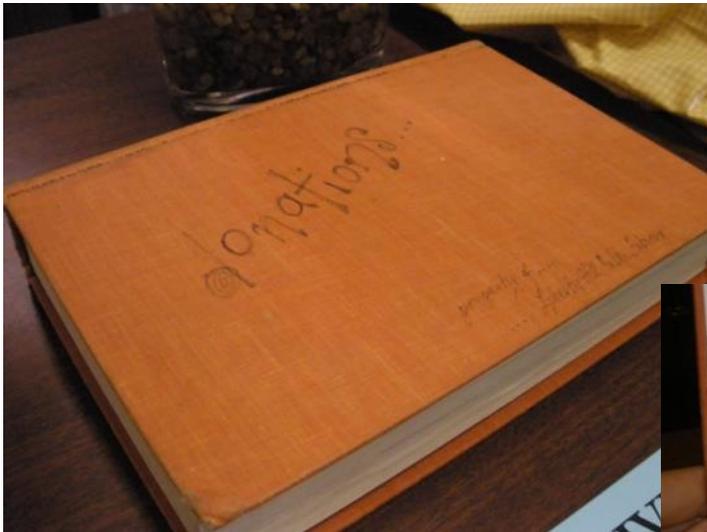
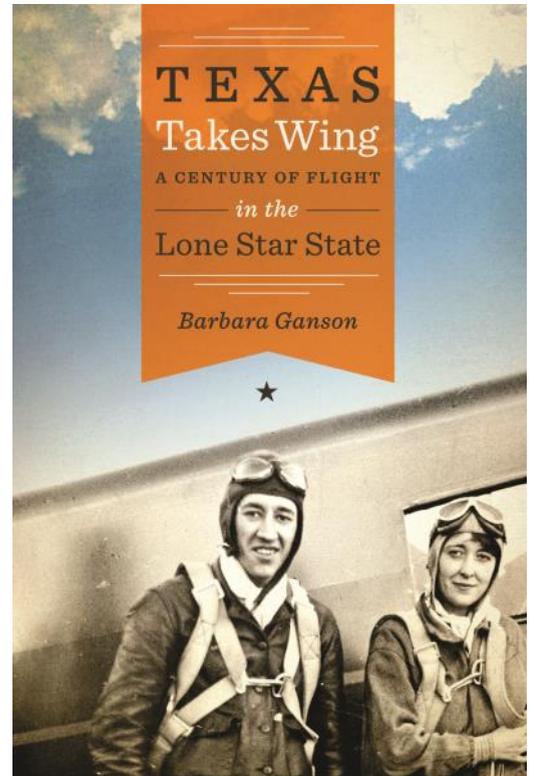
Now well into our 2nd year, CTLS is comprised of 157 member libraries in 85 counties around Texas. Critical financial support has come to us from the Tocker Foundation these first two years. Without the Tocker Foundation's generous support, CTLS would be far less active and effective than we are today. The Trull and Still Water Foundations made significant contributions to our support the first year. Generous personal contributions from individuals and friends of the library groups have helped us to close the funding gap. What could have been the end of CTLS has turned into the beginning of a newly invigorated organization that will grow and thrive well beyond this decade. It has been a great honor to be a part of CTLS for so many years. It gives me great pleasure to know that the future of CTLS is in good hands. The CTLS members and the CTLS Board of Directors will make sure of that.

News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

Texas Book Review

The wide-open spaces of Texas are good for more than just star-gazing. It is no surprise that our state has more airports than any of the 47 contiguous states. The favorable weather for most of the year and flat terrain in much of the state provide flying enthusiasts with ample opportunity to practice take-offs and landings. Barbara Ganson's *Texas Takes Wing*, published by University of Texas Press, looks at the 100+ year "history of flight in the Lone Star State and how Texas became a leader in the aviation industry." Surprisingly, many aviation pioneers were female, including Emma Stinson of San Antonio and Emma Carter Browning of Austin. Even Howard Hughes is profiled: "His impact on aviation history went far beyond Texas' borders," and he "set some of the most important records during the 1930s, as well as making notable contributions" to technological developments during the 1940s. This \$29.95 book was favorably reviewed in the Austin American Statesman on 2/2/2014.



Need Change?

Liberty Hill Library altered a book to use as a way to collect donations.



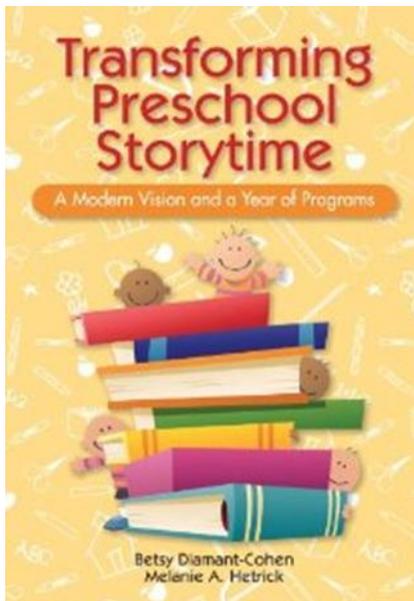
Youth News

Goodbye to Heather

We wish Heather Reynolds the best as she takes a full time position at the Austin Public Library as a youth librarian. It is next to impossible to list all of her contributions to the CTLS community over the last months. Her main assignment was in overseeing the Connect 4 Literacy grant. She also planned and presented Summer Reading Program Workshops. Her helpful spirit and willingness to do whatever needs to be done will be greatly missed.



Book Review



Transforming Preschool Storytime: a Modern Vision and a Year of Programs

by Betsy Diamant-Cohen and Melanie A. Hetrick,
Illustrated by Celia Yitzhak, 2013

This book provides a new twist on storytime by offering the rationale for repetition in storytime. For those of you who follow *Every Child Ready to Read* practices for early literacy, you have heard of the value of repetition. Children learn by repetition. This book encourages librarians to use repetition by retelling one story in several different ways over a six-week period. The book offers explanation, outlines, examples from 8 different books, and flannel board templates to help librarians experiment with repetition in storytime. Developmental tips are included for librarians to use to explain the value of each activity to parents. Website links to print out and give to parents are also provided. (i.e. coloring sheets, crafts, computer fun, games to play) This book inspired me to think outside of the box when planning storytimes. It also can be used as a reference with ready-to-go storytimes to use at your library. This title is a new addition to the CTLS, Inc. professional collection and may be checked out to member libraries.

Science Stuff

By Kim Lehman

Experiment Activity

Thanks to Nicki Stohr, director of the Wilson County Public Library, for sharing this information with us.

We have an idea that we would like to share for this year's Summer Reading Club. We are borrowing an idea found on Pinterest.

We are creating a Science Experiment Jar from a large brandy snifter.

We have searched for science experiments that our Summer Reading Participants of all ages can do at home. We put those experiments on paper and put the paper inside the brandy snifter. Those that complete the experiments and write their findings on the back of the directions will be rewarded with an extra entry in the prize drawing of their choice.

My favorite experiments are "Capturing Heat" where they basically make smores on the dash of the family car and "Are the Clouds Salty" where you get to taste condensation from salt water just like the ocean.

Each experiment is written out just like a cooking recipe with a list of materials and step-by-step instructions we also included discovery questions like "What just happened?" and "What did you just discover?"

Solids, Liquids and Gases

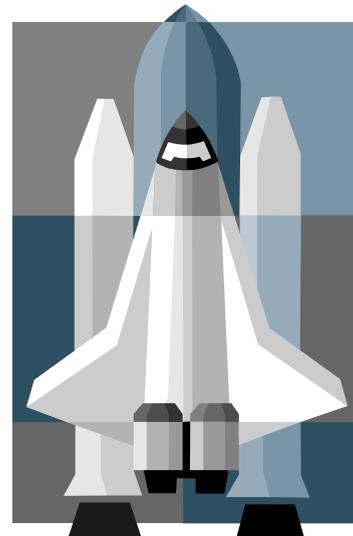
Thanks to Jean Meadors from the Hopkins Public Branch Library in Corpus Christi. We were doing a demonstration of solids, liquids and gases and changing one thing into the other and ran across a really fun demo.

Put a bar of ivory soap in the microwave (Take out the turntable and put waxed paper on the bottom.) Turn on the microwave at high for about 2 minutes and watch what happens to the soap. Watching the Ivory soap grow and expand caught the attention of everyone. Wait until it cools and then let the kids touch the soap. It feels a lot like cotton candy.

I think this was one of the funniest demos I've done this year.

[Video.](#)

[More information.](#)



Space Speakers and Signs

David Bigwood from Lunar and Planetary Institute shared some resources with us that you may find helpful.

The Lunar and Planetary Institute and Division of Space Life Sciences have a speakers bureau. Our speakers are available for the greater Houston/Galveston area. [Click to find out more.](#)

Your members might also find our Traveling Exhibits useful. Banners use colorful images and text to share current lunar science and exploration stories. They were designed for smaller libraries. [Click to find out more.](#)

What's Happening

Congratulations! Libraries Earn Awards

Texas Municipal Library Directors' Association Achievement of Excellence Award

Three CTLS member libraries whose cities are part of the Texas Municipal League received the Texas Municipal Library Directors' Association Achievement of Excellence Award for 2013. The libraries are: the **Lena Armstrong Library** in Belton, the **Cedar Park Public Library** and the **Temple Public Library**.

This is the 5th year in a row that Temple Public Library has received this award. Judy Duer, library director, has a few tips about this grant. "It's been interesting collecting the information for the submission for this award over the years. It has influenced our planning. We are always looking for new things we can do and how we can expand our services to the community. For those of you who haven't applied, if you are a member of TMLDA you should consider it. The City Council is impressed by this award since TMLDA is part of TML, which is a group they know well."



Kim Kroll (right), Director of the Belton Public Library, receiving the Texas Municipal Library Directors' Association Achievement of Excellence Award.



Cedar Park Public Library

The Cedar Park Public Library has recently received two awards. One of them is the 2014 winner of the prestigious Gale Cengage Learning Financial Development Award. The award is presented annually to a library organization for exhibiting meritorious achievements in carrying out a project (The Library Foundation's Fable Fest) to secure new funding resources for a public or academic library.

The Gale Cengage Learning Financial Development Award (\$2500 cash and a gold plated plaque) will be presented at the American Library Association Award Ceremony and Reception on Sunday, June 29th at the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

What's Happening

More Awards!

The [Gordon M. Conable Award](#), sponsored by LSSI, honors a public library staff member, a library trustee or a public library that has demonstrated a commitment to intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights. A \$1,500 check and commemorative plaque will be presented to the **Smithville (Texas) Public Library** for its staff's strength and commitment to defending intellectual freedom and providing open access while facing community challenges to "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys series," a grant program sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Congratulation Judy Bergeron and all the staff at the Smithville Public Library for your vision and courage.



Miss Kountze Pageant

The Woman's Club of Kountze, founders of the library, hold an annual Miss Kountze pageant. This year was the 25th in a row that the pageant has been held. Proceeds benefit the library's book fund. Fifty-eight contestants competed in 5 age categories, from Miss Tiny Tot to Miss Kountze. Director Laverne Crysel reports that this is a great group of ladies. This is truly a unique fundraiser. Thanks, Laverne!

Retirements Abound

We wish these folks well as they venture off into their new path in life. We welcome the new staff that will come on board at all these libraries.

- ★ Pat Tuohy (of course!)
- ★ Ann Moore from Bay City Public Library
- ★ Mary Jackson from the Marble Falls Public Library
- ★ Larry Justiss of San Angelo from the Tom Green County Library
- ★ Barbara Jacob from Cuero Public Library

Welcome New Directors

New Director at San Angelo

CTLS welcomes Jill Donegan, the new director of the Tom Green County Library in San Angelo. Although Jill is new to the director's job, she is not new to the library in San Angelo. Jill was head of Technical Services and succeeds longtime director Larry Justiss, who retired at the end of January.

New Director at Bay City

Longtime Bay City Library Director Ann Moore is retiring and will be replaced by Samantha Denbow. We wish Ann the best of luck, and say "Welcome!" to Samantha.

San Marcos Public Library Celebrates!

The San Marcos Public Library celebrates 50 years of service to the community and 20 years of service at their current location at 625 E. Hopkins. On Sunday, March 30, from 2 to 4 p.m., the library will host a party with music, cake, crafts, and exhibits. Come and help celebrate!

Pat Tuohy is Retiring!

**Let's celebrate
her next chapter in life.**

After 32 years with CTLS and
a professional library career
spanning four decades,
CTLS Executive Director Pat Tuohy
is retiring at the end of March, 2014.
Please join us!

**Thursday, March 27
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Georgetown Public Library
402 W 8th St
Georgetown, TX 78626
The Hewitt Room on the second floor.



Refreshments will be served.
Bring a favorite memory to share.

Questions?
Please call Laurie at [1-800-262-4431](tel:1-800-262-4431) or
[512-583-0704](tel:512-583-0704), or e-mail
laurie.mahaffey@ctls.net

CTLS Calendar of Events

March 27 Pat Tuohy's Retirement Party
Georgetown Public Library
Thursday, March 27
1:00 - 3:00 pm

April 8—12 Texas Library Association Convention

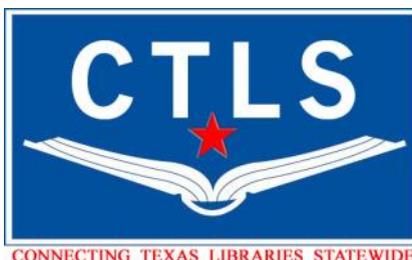
Book Repair Workshops

April 28 – The Colony Public Library
April 29 – Bryan Public Library
April 30 – Tom Green County Library, San Angelo
May 1 – Jourdanton Community Library
May 2 – McAllen Public Library

CTLS, Inc. Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide

CTLS Staff Directory

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We look forward to hearing from you!