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Public Libraries Across Connecticut Celebrate *Take Your Child to the Library Day* with Free Family Events

January 5, 2018 – On Saturday, February 3, 2018, public libraries throughout Connecticut and beyond will celebrate the seventh annual *Take Your Child to the Library Day* with free events and activities for children and families.

Launched in Connecticut in 2012, *Take Your Child to the Library Day* has blossomed into an international celebration with nearly 1,000 participating libraries from 49 states and 5 countries. The brainchild of retired Waterford children's librarian Nadine Lipman, the event was developed to spotlight libraries as vital community resources that enrich, educate and entertain – and to encourage families everywhere to take their children to their local libraries. Children's book illustrator/author Nancy Elizabeth Wallace of Branford created the event's now iconic artwork showing a family of bunnies heading to the library. The statewide nonprofit Connecticut Library Consortium, which coordinates the event, reports that nearly every town in Connecticut hosted free activities for families during last year's celebration.

Special programs are being planned to delight families from one end of the state to the other, including:

- *Wild Things @ The Library!* The Stratford Library has a host of "wild" activities throughout the day, including Monster Music Time, Monster Masks, Ancient Reptiles and an I-Spy game. There will be a "read-in" all day – read for 15 minutes and receive a goody bag. All children who visit will receive a free book to take home.
- *Chill Out and Read!* The Woodbury Library kicks off their Winter Read program, and anyone who registers will get a book bag. Stay for *Stories with Bailey*, a golden retriever therapy dog registered with Pet Partners. Bailey will do a few tricks including playing baseball. Children will each make a dog craft to take home.
- *I Love the Library* events at Hartford Public Library and branches include a library scavenger hunt, photo booth, and crafts to decorate and personalize bookmarks and tote bags to carry their library books.

- Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton invite families for a talk by local authors Stephanie Robinson and Jessica Haight authors of the popular “Fairday Morrow” series for children. Then at 3:00pm, see “Critter Caravan,” an interactive animal program that will have children learn using all of their senses while being up close to a variety of interesting creatures in a gentle and inclusive environment.
- Burlington Public Library will offer reading and signing with local author Jenna Grodzicki. At 1:00. "Real Good Play" will bring their oversized foam blocks to provide creative play, building skills and teamwork.
- Wallingford Public Library offers something for everyone, including a fuzzy friend storytime, chess club, sensory storytime, and a Garden Club hibernation program.
- Brookfield Library will host a full day of events, including a teddy bear sleepover, “Donuts with Dad,” "Bird Brains" program by Horizon Wings, and more.
- Guilford Library celebrates with drop-in engineering activities throughout the day.
- Activities at the Bloomfield Libraries include storyteller Deidre Murtha, local author visits by Marion Dodd and Talia Aikins-Nunez, a magic show with Chris Lengyl, and "knitting" with straws for charity.
- Deep River Library will be hosting *ABC Amigos* for a Spanish music and movement program perfect for the preschool set.

These are just a few examples of the many free, engaging activities being offered at public libraries across Connecticut for *Take Your Child to the Library Day*. Contact your local library to see what they have planned. To find a library near you, visit ctlibrarians.org/findmylibrary.

ABOUT TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Take Your Child to the Library Day is a free, fun, family-friendly event supported by the Connecticut Library Consortium and endorsed by the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association), Reach Out and Read, and Read to Grow. For more information, visit www.takeyourchildtothelibrary.org.

ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

The Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) is a non-profit membership collaborative serving all types of Connecticut libraries by helping them strengthen their ability to serve their users. CLC has initiated and facilitated cost effective-services, created educational and professional development programs, and fostered innovation and collaboration for their over 800 members since 2003. For more information, visit www.ctlibrarians.org.

LIBRARY FACTS FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/quatable%20facts.2017.downloadable.pdf>

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