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

On Saturday, February 2, 2019, public libraries throughout Connecticut and beyond will celebrate the 8th 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 1,200 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.

"Since its inception, Take Your Child to the Library Day activities have been made available to more than 39 million individuals and families across the U.S. and in countries around the globe," said Jennifer Keohane, Connecticut Library Consortium's Executive Director. "Taking children to the library helps them develop a love of reading and learning, but the benefits don't end there. Choosing and checking out their own materials helps children learn independence, sharing, and responsibility. Library books and technology open up access to the world and fuel children's curiosity and passions. And library programs provide myriad opportunities for learning, discovering, making friends, and having fun! If you want your children to become thoughtful, engaged citizens, start by bringing them to the library – on Take Your Child to the Library Day or any day."

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

- *Upcycled Egg Drop* with How Cool is That? at the **Bethlehem Public Library**. This is a hands-on workshop for kids in kindergarten through sixth grades where they use recycled materials to build an invention to keep an egg from breaking when dropped from different heights.

- **Prosser Public Library** in Bloomfield offers an all-day indoor story walk of Lois Ehlert's picture book *Snowballs*, an Instrument Petting Zoo with the Hartford Symphony designed to expose children to musical instruments through sight, touch, and sound, a *Sticky Jams* program to help children explore sound and movement, and a performance of *Bwana Iguana*, Ray Ward's award-winning reptile show.
- **Manchester Public Library** will celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day with a visit from beloved children's book character Pete the Cat who will happily take pictures with children and their caregivers and share a craft activity.
- Enjoy an open house at the **Pequot Library** in Southport as part of Take Your Child to the Library Day. Amazing acrobat Li Liu is on hand, and just one hand at that, to perform for families, followed by an afternoon of activities designed to highlight library offerings and encourage children to explore the collection, get their library cards, and read!
- **Derby Public Library** will offer a painting class for children ages 4-11 presented by the Giggling Pig Art Studio, and a drop-in STEM Program *Construction Zone* for kids 4-11. There will also be a raffle, scavenger hunt, and make and take craft table available throughout the day.
- Join the **Wallingford Public Library** for Chess Club, Big Ideas Book Club, and Let's Square Dance! There will also be book giveaways and make and take crafts for families.
- Franklin's **Janet Carlson Calvert Library** offers two programs. Children and their families are invited to attend the presentation of quilts made by the Quilt of Valor members to Veterans for their service, spend the morning observing the steps to create a quilt, and make a square of their own. While you're there, be sure to participate in Fantastic Beasts in the Library – pick up a suitcase and collect the Fantastic Beasts hidden throughout the library!
- **Groton Public Library** is celebrating Take Your Child to the Library Day with a birthday book bash honoring Stretch the Giraffe! The party will include drop-in activities, crafts based on favorite children's books, and birthday cake.
- Visit the **Waterford Public Library** to make your own bookmark and participate in *Survival in the Ice and Snow* to learn about our native animals and how they have adapted to survive in the cold weather. Meet live animals, feel animal pelts, and explore other natural items as we discover these animal's winter survival strategies.

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). 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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