

The 2009 TASL Conference begins next week. It is not too late to plan on being part of the excitement. Space is still available to register on-site. Nationally known speakers and authors will be presenting in both large and small group sessions. This year's conference will include box lunches as part of your conference registration package. The conference will take place Thursday evening from 5:00-8:00 PM, Friday from 8:00 AM-4:45 PM, Friday evening from 6:30-8:30 PM, and Saturday from 8:30 AM-12:15 PM.

Thursday evening the conference will begin with the opening of the Exhibit Hall. Autographed books will be given away throughout the evening and food and beverages will be available in the exhibit hall. Conference activities will consist of a total of 4 general session speakers, and 22 breakout sessions. General session speakers include Nick Bruel, Dianne de las Casas, Michael Dahl, Alane Ferguson, and Suzanne Supplee. Local, state, and national speakers will offer smaller breakout sessions on a variety of topics. Friday night's VSBA Banquet will feature Nick Bruel and Peg Kehret. The registration form can be found on the TASL website on the 2009 TASL Conference link.

Please come join us for this exciting conference. The conference will be held at the new Embassy Suites Hotel in Murfreesboro. An Embassy Suites stay includes a hot breakfast, including cooked to order omelets, and also a nightly manager's reception. Please support TASL by staying at the conference hotel and requesting the TASL rate. You can make your reservation by calling the hotel directly 615 890-4464, using the corporate toll-free number 800 EMBASSY, or visiting [www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com).

If you plan on registering onsite, please e-mail Becky Jackman, 2009 Conference Chair, so she can have you included in the meal counts. Her e-mail is [becky37042@gmail.com](mailto:becky37042@gmail.com).

Here is a sampling of the opportunities available at TASL this year:

### ***Friday-Sept. 25, 2009***

#### ***General Sessions***

**Michael Dahl** - Morning & Afternoon breakout Sessions/Morning General Session (8 a.m.)- "From Tarzan of the Apes to the Library of Doom-One Writer's Journey Through the World of High-Interest Books"-Writer of more than 200 books for children (both fiction & non-fiction). He speaks at conferences about graphic novels and high-interest books for boys.

**Nick Bruel** - Afternoon breakout Session/Business Meeting General Session (11 a.m.)- "The Avant Garde Semiotics of 'Bad Kitty' as it relates to Socioeconomic Discourses of the Human Condition"-Author/Illustrator of *Bad Kitty*, *Boing*, *Who is Melvin Bubble?*, & *Bad Kitty gets a Bath*

**Suzanne Supplee** - Morning & Afternoon breakout Sessions/Business Meeting General Session (12:15 p.m.)-Writer of *When Irish Guys are smiling* (a Students Across the Seven Seas series book) and *Artichoke's Heart*. She grew up in Columbia, TN.

### ***Break-out Sessions***

**Amelia Bell** - Morning Session-"Meet the 2009 VSBA Intermediate Titles" (Gr. 4-6)

**Nancy Polette** - Morning Session-"Luring Readers with Improvisations & Readers Theatre" & Afternoon Session-"Research without Copying"- (Elementary/Middle)

**Judy Bivens** – Morning Session-"AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner"-For those of you who missed her professional development sessions this summer, you will have the opportunity to hear her presentation. (Elementary/Middle/High School)

**Scot Smith** - Afternoon Session-"Volunteer State Book Award Nominees 2009/10 (Young Adult division)

**Peg Kehret** - Afternoon session/Speaker for VSBA Award Banquet-Author who won the 2008

VSBA Award for "*The Ghost's Grave*". She encourages empathy by using animals in her books.

**AASL Forum** - Led by Michael Dowling

**Federal Reserve - Jeannette Bennett & Jackie Morgan**-Afternoon session-"LINK and Learn"- Lesson plans & curriculum that address economics and finance- (Elementary/Middle/High School)

**Mary Jo Huff** - Morning/Afternoon Sessions-"Fairy Tales, Fantasy, & Storytelling Fun"- (elementary)-Author, professional storyteller, recording artist, & early childhood educator

**Beth Jackson** – Afternoon Session-"My Newbery Year: or, how did she get on the Newbery Committee"- (elementary/middle)

**Diane Chen** – Afternoon Session- "ALA 2"-Media Specialist & Member of ALA Executive Board

**Penny Frere & Sue Maszaros**-Afternoon session-"Web 2.0 in TEL (or TEL 2.0)" (Elementary/Middle/High School) - Tenn-Share & Tennessee State Library & Archives

**VSBA Awards Banquet**- Speakers are Nick Bruel & Peg Kehret

### ***Saturday-Sept. 26***

#### ***Break-Out & General Sessions***

**Dianne de Las Casas**-Morning session-"Story Fest-Reading Comprehension through Story Theater" (elementary)-General Session (8:30 a.m.)-"Passport to the Imagination" (elementary, middle, & high school)-Author, storyteller, & recording artist

**Alane Ferguson**-Morning session-"The Reading/Writing Connection" (elementary, middle, & high school)-General Session (11:15 a.m.)-"Stranger than Fiction: The Life that brought me to Forensics" (elementary, middle, & high school)

**Becky Jackman**-Learning4Life

**Cindy Welch**-Morning Session-"Top Ten Tips: Working the School Media Center, Gr. 7-12"- University of Tennessee Professor

Come ***Explore, Excite, & Empower*** with your colleagues. Support and patronize our vendors beginning on Thursday evening – Sept. 24, 2009.