

# Footnotes

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians

Volume 21 Number 1

January 2003

## What Is TASL Doing for Me?

Welcome to 2003! Another January, another TASL membership drive! And maybe you are asking yourself, "Why should I spend my hard-earned \$20 on TASL?"

Since 1990, TASL members have sought to improve school libraries and the school librarian profession in Tennessee. TASL sponsors an annual conference, a web site, a listserv, a newsletter, a regional network, and statewide committees -- vehicles which enable Tennessee's school librarians to stay in touch, work together, and grow both personally and professionally.

Affiliated with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the Tennessee Education Association (TEA), TASL facilitates communication with other members of our profession outside Tennessee and with others sharing our role as educators.

This year TASL committees are organized regionally -- with an Advocacy Committee based in the Johnson City/Kingsport area, a Certification Standards Committee based in Knoxville, a Legislative Committee based in Nashville, and other committees working throughout the state. Having each committee working in one area should enable more face-to-face contact, brain-storming, and development of workable plans that we can implement to improve our profession.

Sandy Shetley of Morristown is facilitator of our regional network, a means of staying in touch between newsletters. Sandy still needs volunteers in various counties across the state to receive and distribute emails. The network can also be used to disseminate news from the local level to the state. If you are interested in helping her, please email her at [sshetley@lcs.net](mailto:sshetley@lcs.net) or at [skshetley@hotmail.com](mailto:skshetley@hotmail.com).

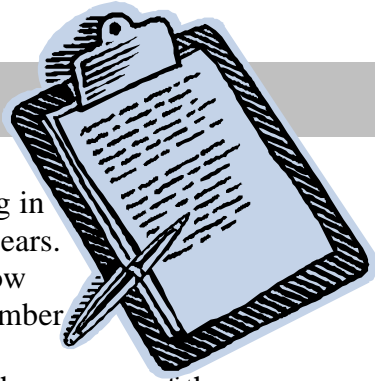
Area representatives serving on the TASL Executive Board for this year are Allison Roberts and Roberta Dunn, from East Tennessee; Dru Henson-Hunt and Kelly Messerly, Middle Tennessee; and Kay Sawyer and Candy Wiggins, West Tennessee. You may contact these representatives whenever you have a concern, suggestion, or idea that you would like to see brought before the Executive Board. Because they represent you, they do want to hear from you!

Scot Smith continues as web-master--with much thanks from all of us--and Betsy Stubblefield is newsletter editor this year. Please let them know when you have news for the TASL membership.

Our annual conference will be from November 20-22, 2003, at the Franklin Marriott in Cool Springs again. The theme is Worlds Meet @yourlibrary. An exciting new presentation will be a monetary award by Follett Library Resources to a first-time attendee to the conference. Presenters and speakers include: Joseph Bruchac, Judy Freeman, Ruth Toor and Hilda Weisburg, Mike Shoulders, Tracy Barrett, and three VSBA authors, Laurie Halse Anderson, Vivian Vande Velde, and Helen Lester, along with several other exciting personalities.

More importantly, we are actively recruiting you to become a presenter at the conference. Are you successfully using graphic novels in your library? Do you have a good understanding of the Big Six? How are you dealing with plagiarism in your school? What successful programs have you implemented? TASL is all about Tennessee's school librarians working together. We can all help each other by giving just a little of ourselves to OUR professional organization!

## President's Note ...



I still remember my first state library conference. I was living in Florida and had been an elementary school librarian for about ten years. I don't remember who convinced me to attend the conference or how they did it, but I went. I don't even remember if I was already a member of the state's library organization.

I do remember the keynote speaker at the general session. She was one of those motivational speakers with a gimmick, and hers was doing some psychological test with various shapes. She had us pick the shape that we most identified with, and my shape was a square. Perfect symmetry, perfect order.

Then she proceeded to explain what the shapes indicated about our personalities. She asked how many of us had picked the square, and I was surprised to see few hands raised. She laughed and said that there weren't many "squares" at the conference because most of us had stayed at school, sure that the library and the school could not survive one day without us! I had to laugh, knowing that were it not for my friend who had dragged me to the conference that I, too, would have been on the job that day.

Another thing that I remember about that conference was how wonderful it was having the chance to talk to others who understood my concerns, knew what issues I was facing at work every day, and felt my pain as well as my joy at having a job I am sure I was born to do!

I left that conference feeling recharged, validated, and a part of the best profession in the world! Since then I have always been a member of my state library organization and have missed very few annual conferences, and those only because of circumstances beyond my control.

I want to encourage each of you to join TASL this year and plan to attend our conference November 20-22, 2003, at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. Our theme this year is **Worlds Meet @yourlibrary**. We will be honored to host Joseph Bruchac, Judy Freeman, and three VSBA-winning authors, Vivian Vande Velde, Helen Lester, and Laurie Halse Anderson, along with several other exciting speakers and presenters.

So, don't stay at school. Instead, come to Franklin and meet with us. I can promise you that your library and your school will still be there when you get back! And you will leave Franklin feeling recharged, validated, and a part of the best profession in the world.

---

## Was Your School Damaged by a Tornado in November?

Molly Griffis, VSBA-nominated author for 2003-2004 and Oklahoma resident, heard about the devastating tornadoes in our state in November, and she would like to help schools that were damaged during the storms. She has a dozen or so autographed Harold Keith (Newbery winner, *Rifles for Watie*) novels that she would like to donate to schools who may then auction or sell the books to raise money to help rebuild library collections.

If you are interested in this offer, you can contact Ms. Griffis by email at [mlgriffis@oecadvantage.net](mailto:mlgriffis@oecadvantage.net). She will send you one or two of these books just for the asking!

# Membership Application for 2003

Membership dues for the year 2003 are payable now. Membership is valid for the 2003 calendar year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (H) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School System \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

FAX Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle** any information above that you do not want included in the directory.

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Professional Memberships \_\_\_\_\_ TEA \_\_\_\_\_ ALA \_\_\_\_\_ AASL \_\_\_\_\_ TLA

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to serve on a TASL committee \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

I would like to be added to the TASL listserv \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

**Please return this form and your \$20.00 membership dues to:**

**Beth Eades, 1826 Cherokee Bluff Dr., Knoxville, TN 37920**

*Checks should be made payable to Tennessee Association of School Librarians*

## Library Legislative Day – Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Come be a part of the fourth annual Library Legislative Day sponsored jointly by TASL, TLA, TENN-SHARE and FOTL (Friends of Tennessee Libraries). This year's event again features an Advocacy Workshop at the Nashville Public Library with meetings and a luncheon with Legislators at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel.

Library Legislative Day 2002 brought more than 300 library supporters and legislators together for lunch and office visits to talk about libraries. Budget constraints dictate that we make sure that our legislators understand the vital role libraries have in education, one of Tennessee's major concerns. This is an especially important year since we will have a new Governor and many new faces in the State Legislature.

This year's message is that TEL is good for schools! We will feature live testimonials from students on the value of TEL. For that reason, it is especially important that as many school librarians as possible attend.

The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) continues to operate without state funding. Its existence is in jeopardy since federal funds that currently operate TEL were intended as "start-up funding" only. Let's be sure that all legislators -- especially those who are newly-elected, understand that TEL is the "best bang for the buck" in education, costing only 14 cents per Tennessean.

We realize how difficult it is for school librarians to take half a day off, but we hope that many of you in the Metro Nashville area will be able to participate. You are encouraged to stay in touch with your legislators, get to know them better, and speak up for school libraries. They will receive an invitation to this event, but personal contact and an invitation from you is the most effective way to assure their attendance. Please phone your legislator at 1-800-449-8366 and arrange for a visit and to escort him/her to the luncheon that day.

You will find complete information on Library Legislative Day 2003, including a registration form, on the TLA website at [www.tnla.org](http://www.tnla.org). There are also links from the TENN-SHARE ([www.tenn-share.org](http://www.tenn-share.org)) and the TASL ([www.kornnet.org/tasl/](http://www.kornnet.org/tasl/)) websites.

Hope to see you there,

The Library Legislative Day Committee

### *Looking for an Author to Visit Your School?*

Caldecott honor book author/illustrator Suse MacDonald will be in Nashville April 26 for the annual conference of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators – Midsouth, to be held at University School. She is interested in making a school visit while she is in Nashville, and the school's expenses will be defrayed by the conference, which will be paying her transportation and lodging.

For more information about Ms. MacDonald, her works, and her programs, go to her website, <http://www.create4kids.com/> and click on For Educators. If you are interested in having

her visit your school, you can contact the co-chair for the conference, Joanne Mamenta at 615-315-9683.

## ***Reflections***

### **Jeanette Lambert, 2002 TASL President**

**M**ore than 300 school librarians from across Tennessee gathered at the Marriott Hotel at Cool Springs in Franklin for the eleventh annual conference of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians. The conference theme was Making the Connection: School Libraries and Student Achievement.

An extensive list of breakout speakers included Walter Minkel (Technology Editor at School Library Journal), Laura Tillotson (editor at Booklist and BookLinks), Edward Sullivan (Jefferson County Schools library media specialist and a series editor for Scarecrow Press), Alice Fay Duncan (Memphis school librarian and author of the forthcoming book entitled Honey Baby Sugar Child), and Emily Sheketoff (Executive Director of ALA's Washington Office).

Dr. Nancy Zimmerman, president of the American Association of School Librarians, spoke during the annual business meeting, marking the first time an AASL president has addressed a TASL conference. Zimmerman elaborated on national issues facing school librarians and encouraged TASL members to take an active role in AASL. She outlined ways in which school librarians can make individual contributions to effect change and improvements.

The Volunteer State Book Award Luncheon featured this year's winners -- Lois Duncan for Gallows Hill and Margaret Read McDonald for Pickin Peas, both of whom were fascinating speakers for those present.

A Literary Breakfast, featuring nationally acclaimed author Synthia Saint James as keynote speaker, provided a festive end to the conference. Following the breakfast, a literary festival was conducted in the breakout rooms. Panels of authors were set up in different rooms so that participants could interact with local and state authors of different genres.

Borders Bookstore of Franklin handled book sales for the conference, allowing more TASL members to enjoy the conference. And the maximum number of vendors space would allow were on hand. But best of all, conference attendees had opportunities to network, exchange information, and acquire new ideas to take back with them and implement in their own schools.

**Call for Presenters**  
**2003 TASL Conference**  
**Worlds Meet @ your library**

**November 20-22, 2003**

**Franklin Marriott Cool Springs**

TASL is seeking member presenters for the 2003 conference. We feel that our members have a great deal of expertise and experience to share with other members, and we would like to see more member participation in conference presentations.

If you are interested in sharing your programs, theories, ideas, techniques, and enthusiasm at the next TASL conference, please complete and return this form to Sherry Ball by March 31, 2003.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

School\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Title\_\_\_\_\_

Description\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

Equipment Needed\_\_\_\_\_

Setup Time Required\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Arrangement of Room\_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs\_\_\_\_\_

TASL member/presenters are expected to register for the conference and will not receive monetary compensation. Thank you for your service to our organization!

Mail to Sherry Ball, 7721 Sevilla Rd., Powell, TN 37849

# keeping up with books on the internet

---

## ED SULLIVAN

It may sound contradictory to say the Internet is one of the best places to keep up with the latest in children's and young adult books, but it's true. I have subscribed to electronic discussion lists for years now to help me keep up, and I am always surprised when I meet librarians who are not aware of them.

There are several electronic discussion lists devoted to children's and young adult literature, but there are two I am particularly fond of, and, if you are not already subscribing, I encourage you to check them out.

CHILD-LIT, the short name for Children's Literature: Criticism and Theory, is not as dreary as it sounds. It is a lively discussion group composed of authors, critics, editors, librarians, publishers, and teachers. This time of year, there is much speculation about which books are likely contenders for major awards such as the Caldecott, Newbery, and Sibert. Subscribers share bibliographies and help each other out with "stumpers." There is a constant flow of discussion about recently published children's books. To subscribe to CHILD-LIT, send an email to [listserv@email.rutgers.edu](mailto:listserv@email.rutgers.edu). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "SUB CHILD\_LIT [your full name]." Subscribing enables you to receive posts via email and also send your own messages to all of the other subscribers. This is a very active list. Expect to receive a dozen or so messages a day.

Another noteworthy book discussion list is YALSA-BK, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of ALA. This list obviously focuses on young adult literature appropriate for middle and high school readers. Like CHILD-LIT, YALSA-BK is populated mainly by librarians and teachers, but you can also find yourself engaged in electronic conversation with authors or book editors. There has been a lot of discussion recently about which books might win this year's Michael L. Printz Award. It is also a very active list and the mail volume can occasionally be heavy. Discussions are lively and can become heated at times, but the topics are almost always interesting. It is a wonderful way of keeping up with what's happening in young adult publishing. To subscribe to YALSA-BK, send an email to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "Subscribe YALSA-BK [your full name]."

What I like best about these discussion lists is the opportunity they give to talk about books with colleagues. School librarians do not typically have the support system classroom teachers have. Language Arts teachers can talk with other language arts teachers, and so on. We are, for the most part, on our own and it can be hard to find fellow teachers who share our enthusiasm for books. If you are not subscribing, sign up now and see what you have been missing!

## TASL Officers 2003

**Nancy Dickinson**, *President*  
Hillsboro Elem. School  
284 Winchester Hwy  
Hillsboro, TN 37342  
[fsufan@dtccom.net](mailto:fsufan@dtccom.net)

**Wanda Powell**, *Secretary*  
Dresden High School  
7150 Hwy. 22  
Dresden, TN 38225  
[powellw@k12tn.net](mailto:powellw@k12tn.net)

*West TN reps*

**Kay Sawyer**  
Dyer County High School  
820 Williams St.  
Newbern, TN 38059  
[ksawyer@mail.dyercls.k12.tn.us](mailto:ksawyer@mail.dyercls.k12.tn.us)

**Candy Wiggins**  
Henry County High School  
315 S. Wilson  
Paris, TN 38242  
[wigginsc@j12tn.net](mailto:wigginsc@j12tn.net)

**Diane Chen**, *V-P/Pres.-Elect*  
Hickman Elem. School  
112 Stewart's Ferry Pk.  
Nashville, TN 37214  
[diane.chen@mnps.org](mailto:diane.chen@mnps.org)

**Vicki Randolph**, *Treasurer*  
Springfield Middle School  
715 Fifth Ave. West  
Springfield, TN 37172  
[randolphv@k12tn.net](mailto:randolphv@k12tn.net)

*Middle TN reps*

**Dru Henson-Hunt**  
Loretto High School  
525 Second Ave. S.  
Loretto, TN 38469  
[mihunt@lorettotel.net](mailto:mihunt@lorettotel.net)

**Kelly Messerly**  
Tom Joy Elem. School  
2201 Jones Ave.  
Nashville, TN 37207  
[messerlyk@hotmail.com](mailto:messerlyk@hotmail.com)

**Jeanette Lambert**, *Past President*  
Pearl-Cohn High School  
904 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.  
Nashville, TN 37221  
[jbl96@aol.com](mailto:jbl96@aol.com)

*East TN reps*

**Allison Roberts**  
Barger Academy of Fine Arts  
4808 Brainerd Rd.  
Chattanooga, TN 37411  
[Roberts\\_Allison@hcde.org](mailto:Roberts_Allison@hcde.org)

**Roberta Dunn**  
Holston Elem. School  
2348 Hwy. 75  
Blountville, TN 37617  
[robertad@chartertn.net](mailto:robertad@chartertn.net)

Footnotes is published quarterly by the Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL). Editor for the 2003 publications is Betsy Stubblefield, Tulip Grove Elementary School, Hermitage, Tennessee. Please submit articles for publication to TASL, 5711 Cloverhill Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027 or email to [elizabeth.stubblefield@mnps.org](mailto:elizabeth.stubblefield@mnps.org)

TASL, publications  
[elizabeth.stubblefield @mnps.org](mailto:elizabeth.stubblefield@mnps.org)  
5711 Cloverhill Drive  
Brentwood, TN 37027