

# Footnotes

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians

Volume 21 Number 2

March 2003

## VSBA Promotes Awareness and Enjoyment Of Good Literature

The Volunteer State Book Award Program, sponsored jointly by the Tennessee Association of School Librarians and the Tennessee Library Association, strives to promote awareness, interest, and enjoyment of good new children's and young adult literature. The program also aims to promote literacy and life-long reading habits.

But... the true success of this program depends on YOU, the librarians. You must have available in your library at least 12 of the titles on the list appropriate for the grade levels in your school and encourage your students to read them throughout the year. In addition, you must promote these titles, conduct voting in the spring, and return the tally sheets by the deadline, April 1, 2003.

Please share with either Kathy Patten ([kpatten@mtsu.edu](mailto:kpatten@mtsu.edu)) or Patty Williams ([pwilliams@k12k.com](mailto:pwilliams@k12k.com)) how you promote the VSBA Program in your school. We want to pass along your great ideas by including them on the VSBA website. Brenda Moriarty has created Powerpoint presentations for each level. Feel free to download them from the VSBA site – and use, modify, or adapt them as you wish.

Greg Kaiser, of Bound to Stay Bound Books, generously has offered to provide a set of each of the 2003-2004 titles for a random drawing to include all schools participating in the program during the 2002-2003 school year. We encourage you to share and promote VSBA books and send your votes by April 1, 2003.

Visit the VSBA website to view the acceptances from Margaret Read MacDonald, Louis Sachar, and Lois Duncan as shared at our VSBA Award Luncheon on October 18.

Complete information is on the official VSBA website: [www.mtsu.edu/~kpatten/vsba.html](http://www.mtsu.edu/~kpatten/vsba.html) or the TASL website: [www.kornet.org/tasl](http://www.kornet.org/tasl)

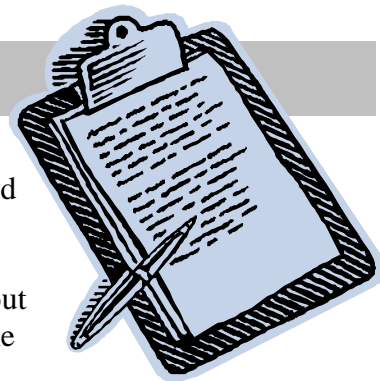


Plan now to attend the TASL  
2003 Conference  
Worlds Meet  
@ Your Library  
November 20-22, 2003  
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs  
700 Cool Springs Boulevard  
Franklin, TN 37067

**Featuring**

Laurie Halse Anderson  
Tracy Barrett  
Joseph Bruchac  
Dr. Nancy Crews  
Judy Freeman  
Helen Lester  
Mike Shoulders  
Ruth Toor  
Margaret Britton Vaughn  
Vivian Vande Velde  
Hilda Weisburg

## President's Note ...



Serving as President of TASL has provided me so many unexpected opportunities to observe and participate in the profession of “Librarian.” I received my MLS from Florida State University in the late 70’s, and having been a school librarian for 25 years, I thought I already knew quite a bit about my chosen profession. But my experiences as your President have shown me how truly isolated I have been from the rest of the library world!

Recently, I returned from Philadelphia where Diane Chen, VP/Pres.-Elect, and I represented TASL at the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians. Elected in June by the Affiliate Assembly as Recording Secretary for this year, I participated in the organization’s Executive Committee meetings. Diane and I also attended Tennessee Library Legislative Day in Nashville with other school librarians and hundreds of public, academic, and special librarians and library supporters. My participation in TASL directly led to being asked to serve as a school library representative on the board of TENN-SHARE a couple of years ago. Currently, I serve on the Advisory Board of TENN-SHARE’s latest resource-sharing project, TEL Phase II with librarians from UTK, Vanderbilt, Memphis and Nashville Public Libraries, and other academic, public, and special libraries.

Wow! It is a big library world out there, folks, and as school librarians, we should play a larger role in it. I had no idea how many opportunities there are for school librarians to make the profession aware of our presence! Right now, we are like the little Who on Horton’s ball of fluff, but if we really were to become active and involved in the profession at large, we could have significant influence on the powers-that-be in our state and national associations! *When it comes to sheer numbers, school librarians far outnumber any other segment of the profession. But when it comes to active participation in professional organizations that affect us, where are we?*

How can we ever better our circumstances and speak up for ourselves if we remain uninvolved and invisible? I’m fearful that we take our jobs for granted, and unless we do become politically and professionally active, we may wake up one day and find ourselves on the outside looking in.

I find it ironic that our conference theme for this year is “Worlds Meet @ Your Library.” What I would really like to see is school librarians getting out of their libraries and meeting the world! Take advantage of the opportunities and volunteer to better your profession. TASL and AASL need you!

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## ***Awards to Be Given by TASL***

TASL proudly sponsors three awards that may be given annually: the Clara Hasbrouck Award, the Distinguished School Administrator Award, and the Innovative Library Media Award.

The Clara Hasbrouck Award is presented to an outstanding individual who has demonstrated dedication and commitment to furthering the cause of school libraries in Tennessee by contributing time, leadership and effort to numerous TASL activities over a period of years. The recipient must be a member of TASL, have demonstrated service to TASL at the state and local level, and be or have been a school librarian or school library supervisor in the state of Tennessee. *(contd.on page 4)*

# Membership Application for 2003

Membership dues for the year 2003 are payable now. Membership is valid for the 2003 calendar year. Dues for Active Librarians are **\$20.00**. Dues for Retirees, Students, and Educational Support Professionals (ESP's) are **\$10.00**.

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

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Active Librarian \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ ESP

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 membership dues to:**

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

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

# **TENN-SHARE Membership Breaks Record**

**TENN-SHARE** is proud to announce that we have surpassed last year's record membership number of 366 libraries, with 390 member libraries as of February 26, 2003. And the good news is that 181 of those members are school libraries.

Benefits of TENN-SHARE membership for school libraries include steep discounts given by Ingram Book Company and many online database vendors, including such outstanding school resources as *Grolier*, *SIRS*, *AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive*, *Facts.com*, and Ebsco and Gale literature resources. TENN-SHARE members also benefit from being Affiliate Members of SOLINET, the Southeastern Library Network, giving them access to interlibrary loan through the OCLC system.

TENN-SHARE includes among its Board members this year Connie Booher, Technology Consultant to the Knox County Schools; Nancy Dickinson, librarian at Hillsboro Elementary School, Hillsboro, and President of TASL; and Patty Williams, librarian at Washington Elementary School, Kingsport, and a past president of TASL.

Thanks to all of you TASL members whose libraries are also TENN-SHARE members!

**Penny Frere**, Executive Director, TENN-SHARE

P. O. Box 357, Bell Buckle, TN 37020

Phone: 931-389-9207, Fax: 931-389-9101

[pfrere@hotmail.com](mailto:pfrere@hotmail.com)

<http://www.tenn-share.org>

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## **TASL AWARDS**, (continued from page 2)

The Distinguished School Administrator Award is an ongoing recognition program for supervisors, principals, and superintendents who have shown support for the library media programs in Tennessee. An individual who is nominated for the honor needs to be instrumental in the completion of some activity or support that enhances a school library media program.

The Innovative Library Media Award is presented to library media specialists who have developed outstanding creative programs. The award recognizes an innovative program at the elementary, middle, and high school level. All TASL members are eligible, and each recipient will receive \$500.00 at the conference.

We encourage applications and nominations for these awards. Further information and applications can be found on the TASL website at <http://www.kornet.org/tasl>

**Congratulations to Michele Dudgeon, Jacqueline Pickard Scarbrough, and Sandy Shetley for being the first National Board Certified Teachers in Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adult in the state of Tennessee!**

# Innovative Library Media Award 2002

I've watched awards being given many times and wished so much that I knew exactly what made that person qualify for an award. With the TASL Innovative Library awards, I've wished that I could file off the serial numbers and use the ideas in my own library! Well, here is my project that won the 2002 award in the elementary school division.

Each class in my school wrote to authors and illustrators of children's books, asking them if they would autograph a quilt block for a Story Quilt for the library. We sent them a packet with a square of muslin cloth, a permanent laundry marker, and a self-addressed stamped return envelope. They almost always responded graciously and sent some truly outstanding blocks. The art teacher worked with the students to produce artwork to pair up with the author blocks. We scanned the students' art into the computer and printed it out on cloth, then assembled the blocks, with bright calico stripping, into six quilts to hang over the bookshelves in the library. We set up the quilting frame in the library and let the students help quilt. The entire project was exciting and elicited positive response from the whole community.

We initiated this project as a way to make connections between the students and the authors and illustrators, to give the students the feeling of ownership in the library, and to foster excitement about books and reading. Feel free to file the serial numbers off and use this idea in your library! Just realize that you are in for a year of very hard work!

**Joy Branham**, Kennedy Elementary School

Project READS (Reading Enhances the Ability to Discover Science) centered on teachers, students, and parents using library books to explore science. The purpose of the project was to increase the reading skills and science knowledge of students through technology, teacher training, and parental involvement. The basic components of Project READS were to: (1) obtain library books that focus on science and coordinate with the existing Accelerated Reader program, (2) enlist a reading specialist to conduct on-site teacher training, and (3) use the library as a reading/research center for students, teachers, and parents.

**Patty Richards**, Boones Creek Middle School

## Attend the 2003 AASL Conference in Kansas City!

Have you ever attended an American Association of School Librarians' Conference? If you meet the criteria listed below, you may qualify for a newly announced grant to help you attend the meeting this October.

To qualify for one of the \$500 awards, you must (1) be a member of AASL by October 1, 2003, (2) currently work in an elementary or middle school library, (3) be attending your first AASL National Conference, and (4) have few or no travel funds available from your district.

Bound To Stay Bound Publishing will award two grants to members of TASL to encourage professional growth and interaction. Winners will be chosen at random from those who apply.

"My First AASL" Grant application forms are available now. Obtain yours from the TASL website at [www.kornet.org/tasl/](http://www.kornet.org/tasl/).

# **the Sibert Award** Nonfiction Finally Gets Some Overdue Recognition

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## **ED SULLIVAN**

Nonfiction gets little respect from most librarians and teachers. The prevailing view is that it is strictly utilitarian—something to be used as needed. What kind of a stupid name is *nonfiction*? To describe something by saying it is not something else is absurd. It is like calling 7UP the "*uncola*." Another ridiculously simplistic label, coined by the late, great Zena Sutherland is "informational books."

In her wonderful essay, "Nonfiction is Literature Too," author Penny Colman writes of her shock at being told by librarians and teachers that nonfiction is not "real reading." "When I ask why," Colman explains, "I am told that nonfiction does not have a plot, character development, suspense, conflict, style, an author's voice, depth of meaning, universality, or any other characteristics that are ascribed to literature."

Writing in "Where Have All the Prizes Gone?" Milton Meltzer, one of our finest authors of nonfiction for young people, notes "To their creation the same quality of imagination is as essential as it is in the writing of fiction. For history has to be imagined before it can be written. Yes, the historian relies first of all on documents and other sources. But the events and personalities have to be reconstructed by the imagination." Meltzer laments the lack of recognition nonfiction receives in prestigious literary awards, such as the National Book Award for young people's literature and the Newbery. Only recently has the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) created an opportunity for nonfiction to get some recognition of its own.

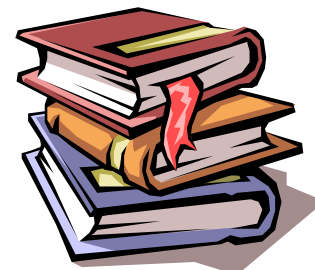
Established in 2001, the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished informational book published during the preceding year. Administered by ALSC, the award is named in honor of Robert F. Sibert, long-time president of Bound to Stay Bound Books, which sponsors the award. As with the Caldecott and Newbery, honor books can be cited in addition to the medal winner.

The Sibert committee chose four honor books this year. Karen Blumenthal's *Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929* (Atheneum, 2002) is a gripping account of the chaotic events preceding the 1929 stock market crash that would plunge the United States into the Great Depression. *Hole in My Life* by Jack Gantos ( Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002) is a compelling, heart wrenching memoir of the author's troubled youth and young adulthood which led him to drug smuggling and imprisonment. *Action Jackson* (Roaring Brook, 2002) by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan is an outstanding picture book biography of artist Jackson Pollack, superbly capturing both his

spirit and artistic style. *When Marian Sang* by Pam Munoz Ryan is a beautifully written and designed picture book biography of the famed African-American contralto Marian Anderson.

The 2003 Sibert Medal was awarded to James Cross Giblin for *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler* (Clarion, 2002). With so many books already available on Hitler, it is hard to believe anyone could offer any new insight into the most infamous monster of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Instead of depicting Hitler as a one-dimensional villain, Giblin creates a portrait of a complex person who evolved over time into the monster he became. Giblin offers compelling insight into Hitler's personal life that is rare in adult biographies of Hitler and non-existent in those written for young people.

The Sibert winners represent not just the very best in nonfiction, but the very best in literature for children and young adults. Nonfiction has been long overdue for some well-deserved recognition, and the Sibert makes that possible. The award helps deflate the popular myth that nonfiction is just for information. As Penny Colman says, "Nonfiction is literature, too," so let's start treating it that way in our libraries.



## National AASL Conference: "Information Matters"

The eleventh national conference for the American Association of School Librarians, set for October 22-26 in Kansas City, Missouri, will revolve around the theme "Information Matters."

Three essential elements of school library media programs outlined in AASL's *Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning* will be the focus of the conference: learning and teaching, information access, and program administration. Featuring workshops, information sessions, and other activities, the conference will strive to assist school library media specialists in improving efforts to collaborate with teachers and administrators, as well as helping students to effectively locate and evaluate information.

Television talk show host and author Dr. Bertice Berry will open the conference. A former professor at Kent State University, Dr. Berry hosted and co-produced a nationally syndicated talk show and has written an inspirational memoir, *I'm On My Way, But Your Foot is On My Head*.

Featured speakers for the second session include: Shannon Lanier, Anna Rosmus, and Patrick Douglas Crispin. Each will describe efforts as young adults to research hard-to-find-information. Lanier traced his lineage from President Thomas Jefferson and African American slave Sally Hemmings for a book, Rosmus' research began with a Nazi hidden in her hometown and led to a foreign language film.

Crispin, a web designer, lecturer, and radio personality is the author of *Web Page Design*. He is a frequent guest on WGN Radio in Chicago, and created the Roadmap workshop, a 27 lesson tutorial which has been distributed online since 1995. A graduate of the University of Alabama with a master's degree in educational technology from Pepperdine University, he co-authors the Internet *Tourbus*, a free website and software guide distributed twice weekly.

**Marion Moore**, Heritage Elementary School

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